

Table of international flight routes and destinations including Abu Dhabi, Atlanta, Amsterdam, etc.

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Guerrilla war on the Tweed

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G2 with European weather



David Lacey sees the underdogs bite back

Scotland the brave

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Education

The end of the amateur academic

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FO shake-up as Labour plans to advertise for ambassadors

Embassies could be headed by recruits from private sector

Ian Black and Richard Norton-Taylor

LABOUR government would advertise vacancies for top ambassadorial posts to attract candidates from the business world to give a sharper and more competitive commercial edge to British diplomacy.

the first time to be headed by men and women recruited from the private sector, under plans being drawn up by the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook.

shake up the Foreign Office's culture since the review of Britain's overseas representation by the Central Policy Review Staff - the Cabinet Office think-tank - in 1977.

became ambassador to the United States, displacing the career diplomat, Sir Peter Ramsbottom.

He added: "Ambassadors have specific expertise in a wide range of activities which might not be available if the jobs were put out to business."

They're OK with first secretaries and probably a counsellor. But after that it's the dignity, it's the plumness."

Of serving ambassadors, a big question mark hangs over the future of Stephen Wall, Britain's ambassador to the EU in Brussels and close confidant of John Major.



Europe gangs up on Major

Ian Traynor in Bonn, John Palmer in Luxembourg and Michael White

GERMANY last night dramatically raised the stakes in the beef war when it unilaterally declared it would continue the ban on beef derivatives

announcement signalled its resolve to stand firm in the beef war with the British.

The European Commission voted last week to lift partially the blocks on bull semen, tallow and gelatine, and Germany's two commissioners in Brussels have come under sharp criticism at home for agreeing to the loosening of the curbs.

Even before the beef war erupted in March, several German states had slapped unilateral import bans on British beef, embroiling them in legal tussles with Brussels.

British ministers, fearful of the repercussions within the party which would follow a failure to secure a binding agreement at the forthcoming Florence summit, now appear ready to settle for what other EU governments see as little more than a figleaf declaration on the beef ban.

The Italian European Union Presidency warned that it was "unrealistic" to expect full agreement at Florence on a stage-by-stage lifting of the ban.

Last night the Government was facing trouble on a third front as Conservative right-wingers, already alarmed at the veto retreat, faced heavy pressure to vote for a referendum bill today.

Bill Cash, the leading Eurosceptic, is introducing a symbolic bill - which has no chance of becoming law - seeking an early referendum in which voters would back or reject negotiations over closer EU integration.

There were rumours that one middle-ranking pro-European minister was contemplating a protest resignation, countered by claims that a sceptical minister had been talked out of doing the same.

The German government's



The eyes have it... Democratic Unionists at Stormont yesterday: (left to right) Peter Robinson MP, Gregory Campbell, Ian Paisley, Nigel Dodds and William McCrea MP. PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN LITTLE

Tea and a symphony of warm words amid the usual bloody mindedness

David Sharrock, Ireland Correspondent

THE first day of Northern Ireland's talks lived up to all its expectations: drama, pathos, courageous words, cups of tea, hope, sanctimony, and plain bloody-mindedness.

Ireland has poisoned the present and threatened the future. It is time to end all that however difficult it may be.

Irish Nationalism had undertaken a period of reflection and redefinition. He had just come from the funeral of a Garda detective, who police believe was shot dead by the IRA on Friday.

But Sinn Fein didn't see it or play it, like that outside. "We come as peace-builders," declared the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, hoping to snatch the best soundbite prize of the day from the British and Irish premiers.

Later he told reporters: "We cannot afford to fall because the opportunities now being opened, having reached this far in discussions, may not easily re-emerge were this opportunity not to be taken."

"For too long the history of Northern Ireland has poisoned the present and threatened the future" - John Major

His speech led to a remarkable first: the Rev Ian Paisley sat through the entire speech of an Irish prime minister delivered on Ulster soil without walking out or bellowing at him. Even if they would not admit it, the Unionists must have liked many parts of Mr Bruton's speech.

The two prime ministers were at one that Sinn Fein would only be allowed inside once the IRA has unequivocally restored its ceasefire.

History would not forgive them. Or forget him; the one lasting monument to his primership - the prize of solving the Irish question - seemed as if it might yet have its unveiling ceremony.

Mr Bruton also lived up to the sense of occasion, delivering a sensitive performance conducted on hostile territory in which he stressed how

used offstage. Various delegates emerged briefly to spin and slag. But the overall picture was good; bitter enemies were standing within feet of one another and not beating each other up.

Mitchell role thwarts peace talks, page 8; Leader comment, page 8; Hugo Young, page 9

Inside

Britain BT and its US partner MCI stole a march on rivals and unveiled an Internet network set to bring in \$2 billion a year.

World News Labour would keep a British brigade of 7-8,000 men in Bosnia to prevent civil war even if the Americans pulled out.

Finance British Energy directors warned that future payments to investors in the privatisation of the nuclear industry may have to be cut.

Sport England's home rivals may be forced to sign their own deals with BSkyB after Iwickham signed a separate £87.5 million deal.

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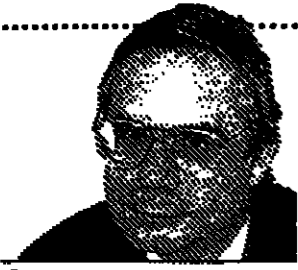
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Advertisement for Abbey National Direct, featuring the text 'WITH RATES FROM 13.5% APR ALL YOUR DREAMS CAN COME TRUE' and 'ABBEYLOAN. THE FAST AFFORDABLE PERSONAL LOAN.'

Sketch

Norris's unnerving Mr Nice Guy show



Simon Hoggart

TRANSPORT questions in the Commons and no sign of Brian Wilson (Lab, Cunninghame N), the Opposition spokesman for railways...

heaven "when a singer repenteth". Which singer did she mean? Madonnas Harry Connick Jr? It would be wonderful if they repented, or better were head-rebutted by Brian Wilson.

US launch of biggest network 'to make £1bn a year' Firms offered high speeds on dedicated service

BT scores Internet coup

Mark Tran in New York

BT AND its US partner MCI yesterday stole a march on its rivals and unveiled the world's biggest Internet network set to bring in \$2 billion (£1,057 million) a year by the end of the century.

distance offerings. By providing dedicated Internet services to business customers, BT and MCI are seeking to nip in the bud the challenge from Internet startups that lack the marketing clout and the close commercial ties enjoyed by the phone giants.

customers direct access to the Internet through local computer centres. The two companies plan to spend \$100 million by the end of the year to expand their global partnership and global reach through the Internet.

as a means of communication for private and business subscribers. Telephone companies generally have upgraded existing networks to carry Internet traffic but BT and MCI are going a step further by building dedicated networks.

should minimise bottlenecks. Use of the Internet, which started as a US government network, is expected to double to roughly 200 million users by the end of the century, with some experts predicting up to 500 million users.

rival, AT&T, America's telecommunications giant. AT&T is building a host of corporate Internet services based on the Lotus software developed by IBM. AT&T, expected to launch its own Internet extension this year, claims it will become the world's largest Internet access provider by early 1997.



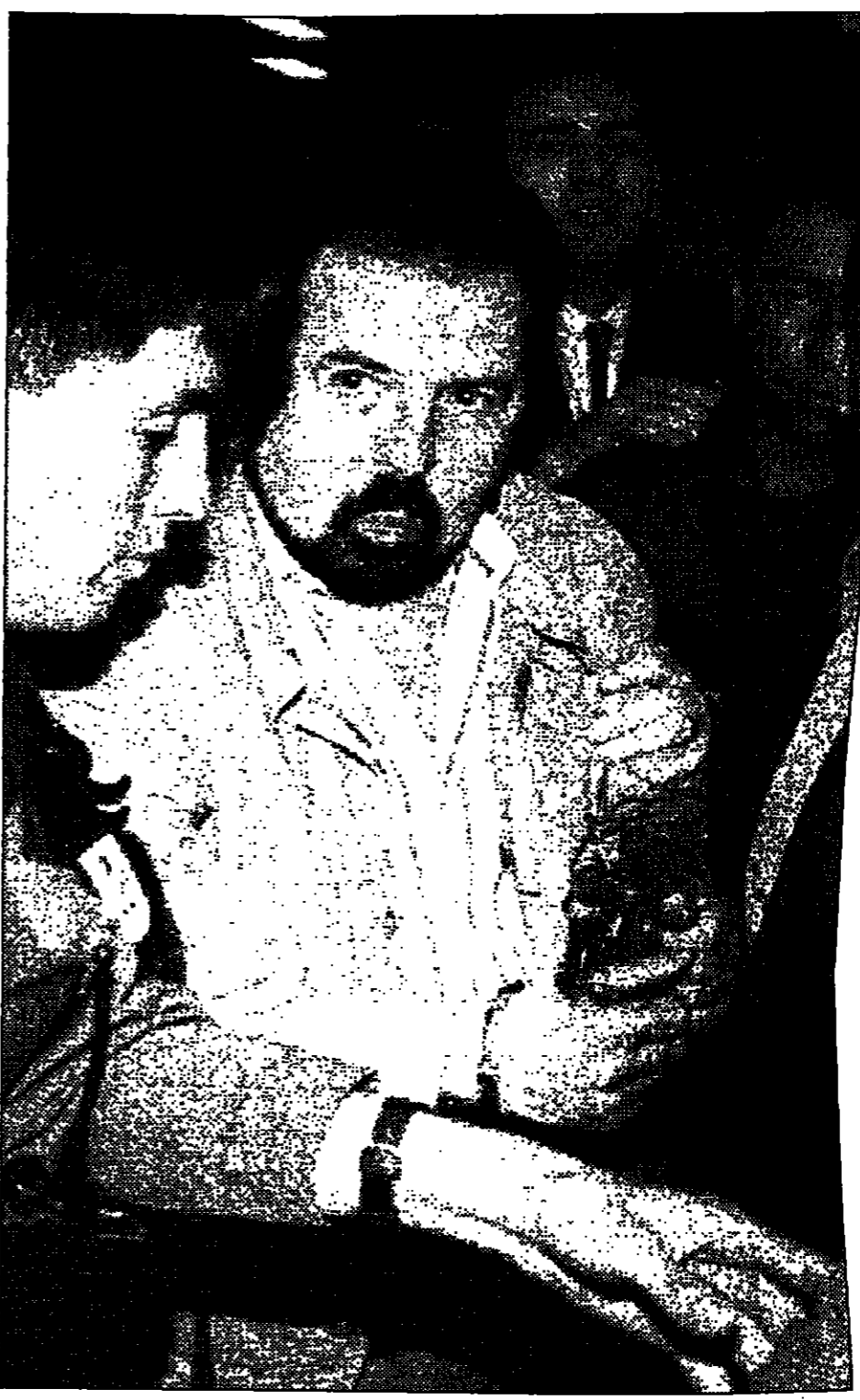
Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela: held in the same jail as his rival for control of the Cali cartel

Colombian capos battle for power

Bloody feuding for control of the world's largest cocaine industry could result in an upsurge in indiscriminate violence



next generation, and it will not be pretty. A law enforcement official said: "Ivan Urdinola and the others want to get rid of the Rodriguezes... and take over the organisations, and the old guard will not go quietly."



Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela: with his brother, continues to run drug empire from jail

to wage a war of terror against the state, and was killed on March 5 in mysterious circumstances. Intelligence sources and associates of the cartel said it appeared the Rodriguez brothers had given their approval to the rightwing paramilitary leader Fidel Castaño to help police kill Santacruz so his violence would not push the government to a more serious crackdown.

Urdinola and others, according to sources close to the cartel, felt the Rodriguez brothers were treading dangerously close to the ultimate sin - betraying another trafficker. - Washington Post.

Review

Touch of genius steals the show

Martin Kettle

Gidon Kremer/Philharmonia Royal Festival Hall

WHAT does a reviewer do when he is supposed to describe an important new work, only for Gidon Kremer to come along and give an absolutely astonishing performance of Tchaikovsky's violin concerto that simply demands to take top billing?

Being Kremer, Tchaikovsky was only the start. The concert had begun with Sibelius's Finlandia. Before that, the enterprising Philharmonia had put on a "pre-concert" of Sofia Gubaidulina's cryptic Seven Last Words for strings, cello and accordion.

Douglas Farah in Cali

A BLOODY battle has broken out within the Cali cartel over control of the world's largest cocaine trafficking organisation and its billions of dollars in profits - signalling one of the sharpest realignments in Colombia's drug trade, informed sources say.

away from Mexico to the Caribbean and Central America, as the Urdinola faction has far less cordial ties with the Mexican traffickers who currently transport much Colombian cocaine to the US.

The Call cartel, a loose affiliation of drug trafficking organisations, produces and distributes up to 80 per cent of the world's cocaine. The Rodriguez brothers, who last week pleaded guilty to drug trafficking charges, had been displaced as the largest cocaine traffickers in recent years.

Nation gets £75m gift

Largest collection of gold and silver donated to Britain by US millionaire

Nick Varley

A MAN who emigrated to America almost 50 years ago returned to Britain last night with a special gift: the largest arts donation of its kind.

Court of Justice, should be enjoying its new role by the turn of the century. Many of the items to be exhibited there, including gold boxes and micro-mosaics, were regarded as serious losses to the nation's heritage when they were exported.

a collection of this quality." Mr Gilbert, born in Golders Green, north London, made his millions through property deals. He emigrated 47 years ago.

Germans take hard line as EU gangs up on Major

continued from page 1 agreement will not include either a timetable for the full lifting of the ban or an automatic process by which it will be removed in stages.

Disappointing response to gun amnesty in wake of Dunblane

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

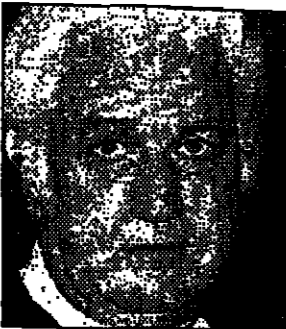
JUST under 5,000 weapons have been surrendered in the first week of the national firearms amnesty declared after the Dunblane shooting.

amnesty will fall far short of the 40,000 weapons handed in after the Hungerford mass shootings in 1988.

Rukba advertisement: Helping the elderly stay independent makes Rukba so special. Includes contact information and a coupon.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Our man in . . .



Sir John Kerr: Age: 54 Job: Ambassador to US since August 1995. Education: Glasgow Academy, Oxford University. Family: Married, 2 sons, 3 daughters. Career: Seconded to Treasury, 1961-64, private secretary to chancellors Howe and Lawson. Senior post Washington embassy, then ambassador to EU. Brainy Scot, sharpness in detecting political boobytraps; hailed by Margaret Thatcher as a "golden pen".



Christopher Meyer: Age: 52 Job: Ambassador to Germany Education: Lancing College, Cambridge University. Family: Married, 1 son, 1 stepson. Career: FCO high flyer, formerly chief spokesman; John Major's press secretary, 1994-96. Postings include Moscow, Madrid, Brussels. Former Harvard fellow, writing on media and government; later minister, then deputy head of mission, Washington embassy.



Stephen Wall: Age: 49 Job: Ambassador to EU. Education: Douai School, Cambridge University. Family: Married, 1 son. Career: A Eurosceptic; private secretary to three foreign secretaries before joining John Major where he was drawn into the arms-to-Iraq controversy over deleting a phrase in a letter by Major to Labour MP, Gerald Kaufman. Wall admitted mistake and regretted it: "I accept the criticism of me in the Scott report. But I did not act dishonourably."



The way they were... British diplomats during the age of Empire at court for an audience with the King of Burma in 1876

# Chin-chin . . . where's the gin?

As Labour plans to advertise for diplomats, a stiff upper lip is still crucial for any one hoping to be 'sent abroad to lie for his country'

John Ezard

IF Labour's scheme to advertise for potential ambassadors is introduced, successful applicants will find that one traditional gift for the job is still crucial: the stiffest of upper lips. They will discover it is needed to survive foreign emergencies like the Great Boozie Disaster of Ulan Bator, which was recently followed by the Great Boozie Disaster of Alma Ata.

Both these cataclysms happened to the same ambassador, Noel Jones, in different postings. His stoicism under extreme pressure has become a byword in the service.

Alcohol is recognised as vital to assist trade talks and diplomatic entertaining in the low winter temperatures of Outer Mongolia — Britain's remotest posting — and Kazakhstan.

An equally delicate, if more sombre, account of ambassadorial restraint in a global

Britain via the trans-Siberian railway. In 1985, however, Mr Jones's supplies got stuck in a St Petersburg railway siding for nine months during the Russian winter. "By the time it arrived, the sparkling wine bottles had burst, the other wine had gone off and they had to drink malt whisky with every course," the London wine shipper who organised the consignment said yesterday.

"It is better to draw a veil over the latter we received from the diplomatic service."

When Mr Jones was posted to Kazakhstan, the FO prudently switched to a road route. But in 1993 the lottery to Alma Ata got stuck in a Uralai snowdrift. Only the EP sattee arrived fit for consumption. Yet Mr Jones took a professional, positive line. He said: "There's no reason why — given time — Kazakhstan shouldn't become a viable working country."

An equally delicate, if more sombre, account of ambassadorial restraint in a global



Ambassador Sir John Mildenhall exchanges pleasantries with Akbar, Emperor of India, in 1599

crisis will be given next Monday by Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, in his Letters From A Diplomat series on BBC Radio 4.

Mr Hurd discloses how as a young diplomat he had to deliver a telegram of Foreign Office instructions to the British ambassador in Washington, Sir Pierson Dixon, about the Israeli attack on Egypt which was the forerunner of

the 1966 Suez crisis. Sir Pierson was at the Metropolitan Opera watching Maria Callas in Norma. So was Henry Cabot Lodge, US Ambassador to the United Nations. The two men had already discussed the attack, agreeing that Britain and the US would jointly call a Security Council meeting to condemn Israel.

But the telegram Mr Hurd brought forbade this joint

action, without giving a reason. Mr Hurd recalls: "Sir Pierson was an honourable and intelligent man of great experience. He rarely betrayed any emotion in the presence of foreigners. As his private secretary, however, I could tell when he felt such emotion because his neck turned a bright shade of pink."

"His embarrassment was strong that night as the harsh

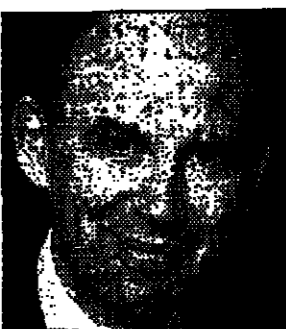
voice of Maria Callas filled the opera house. He struggled to find reasons for a refusal he thought inexplicable. Cabot Lodge retired, baffled and indignant." The US joined the Soviet Union in condemning and undermining the British invasion which followed.

Grand gestures still have their place. Sir Christopher Mallaby, ambassador to Paris, walked out of the Channel tunnel into France to present his credentials. In last month's spy crisis Sir Andrew Wood, ambassador to Russia, drove to the Kremlin in a Range Rover instead of a Rolls-Royce to make a point about British hard-headedness.

"But the most historic lessons for diplomats of all trends is to suppress their egotism. The father of British diplomacy, King James I's ambassador Sir Henry Wotton, is remembered for his aphorism: "An ambassador is an honest man sent abroad to lie for the good of his country."

What only diplomats need to remember is that the remark backfired on Wotton. His overseas enemies publicised it, then complained to James that he had sent a confessed liar abroad. According to one of Wotton's biographers, this "ruined his chances of preferment".

Our man in . . .



Michael Jay: Age: 48 Job: Ambassador to France. Education: Winchester and Oxford University, School of African and Oriental Studies at London University. Family: Married. Career: Paris embassy, financial and commercial affairs. FCO director for European Community affairs; key role in Maastricht negotiations. Got FCO job in face of bid by top FCO woman, Pauline Neville-Jones. Management-minded. Cerebral.



Veronica Sutherland: Age: 57 Job: Ambassador to Ireland since March 1995. Education: Royal School, Bath; London and Southampton universities. Family: Married. Career: In FCO's top three women. Served in Copenhagen; specialised in development issues in New Delhi and as delegate to Unesco. Ambassador to the Ivory Coast, and non-resident envoy to Niger and Burkina Fasso.



Sir Andrew Wood: Age: 56 Job: Ambassador to Russia since July 1995. Education: Ardingley College, Cambridge University. Family: Married; 2 sons, 1 daughter. Career: Postings include Moscow (twice), Washington (twice), Belgrade, ambassador to Yugoslavia, and Chief Clerk, in charge of all FCO administration and management during battles against Treasury cuts. Understated and cool under fire as shown in recent tit-for-tat spy expulsion spat.

## Militants strike against Israelis

Killings challenge Netanyahu's promise of 'peace with security'

Derrek Brown in Jerusalem and David Hirst in Beirut

PALESTINIAN and Lebanese militants have sent a grim challenge to the Israeli prime minister-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu, with two attacks which cost at least eight lives. Hizbullah yesterday promised to turn occupied south Lebanon into a "volcano" and "drive out the Israelis and their Lebanese auxiliaries". The boast came after a daring raid in which five Israeli soldiers were killed in a hail of machine gun and rocket fire. Six other soldiers were wounded, and a Lebanese soldier was killed when Israeli artillery retaliated.

Inside Israel, two Jewish settlers from the occupied West Bank died when at least one gunman sprayed their car with automatic fire. The victims were a young couple from the most radical of settlements, Kiryat Arba, outside Hebron. Their nine-month-old son was found by police, unharmed and still strapped in the back seat of the car.

For Mr Netanyahu, who won last month's election with a promise to bring Israel peace with security, the latest attacks are the starkest reminder of bloody reality in the region. Mr Netanyahu maintained his post-election silence, but his office issued a terse statement: "The battle must be waged aggressively with determination and prudence, and this will be our policy."

The attack in Lebanon — which has sharpened fears in the country of another configuration if Israel hits back in the south — brings to nine the number of Israelis killed in the "security zone" since the Grapes of Wrath operation in April. Before Grapes of Wrath, seven had been killed in 1996. Eleven of Israel's protégés of the South Lebanese Army have been killed so far this year. Hizbullah has lost 31 guerrillas, but only four of them since Grapes of Wrath. In yesterday's dawn assault, Hizbullah raiders opened fire at close range with automatic weapons on Israeli soldiers on their way to the hill-top outpost of

Dabsh, and fired anti-tank missiles at two armoured personnel carriers. It was almost a repeat performance of a raid last year, in which they briefly laid siege to the Dabsh outpost. Their video film of the operation shocked the Israeli public.

Israeli troops repelled with a heavy artillery bombardment of the Nabatiyah area, killing a Lebanese soldier and wounding a civilian. Hizbullah called this a violation of the "understanding" that ended Grapes of Wrath.

Israel and the US have admitted that recent Hizbullah attacks have kept 'within the rules'

This prohibits Israel from shelling civilians and Hizbullah from launching attacks from populated areas. Nothing in the understanding forbids Hizbullah from raids into the "security zone". Israel and the United States have more or less admitted that since Grapes of Wrath Hizbullah attacks have kept "within the rules".

The perennial savagery of Lebanon will test Mr Netanyahu sorely after he takes office. But the new leader may well be even more concerned about the less sophisticated but more cold-blooded attack inside Israel.

It took place late on Sunday night, near the central Israeli town of Bet Shemesh, as the couple drove towards their home in Kiryat Arba. Efrat and Yaron Unger, both in their twenties, died when a burst of automatic fire from another vehicle raked their car.

The shooting outraged West Bank settlers, especially in the hardline township of Kiryat Arba. Uri Dasberg, the father of Efrat Unger, said: "I think a suitable answer to such a terrible event can be holding... the land more strongly with our fingers, with nails deep, deep in the earth."

The 140,000 or so Jewish settlers in the occupied lands voted overwhelmingly for Mr Netanyahu, who has promised to support their cause and confine Palestinian self-rule to tiny separate enclaves. Now the settlers will seek some tangible evidence of his boast that he can deliver both peace and security.

Photograph, page 7

**'There are still mornings when it's difficult to get up,' she says, apologising for her cigarette, and she has often thought about taking her own life or just becoming a recluse, far away from memories and questions.**

G2 page 3

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سكزا من الاصل

# Man continues to defy deportation order

## Chapel refuge for Chinese in hiding

Geoffrey Gibbs

**A**HONG Kong man who fled from his home in Cornwall to avoid being deported, has taken sanctuary in a Methodist church after two weeks on the run.

Ring Fat "Albert" Tong left the house he shared with his Cornish-born wife, Becky, and their three-year-old daughter, Monica, the night before he was due to be put on a flight from Heathrow. Supporters say he has been living rough.

Mr Tong, who has lived in Britain for 17 years, was granted refuge at the Methodist chapel in Marazion, near Penzance, on Sunday night, only hours after Home Office officials had entered his small

terraced house in Camborne to search for clues to his whereabouts.

He said yesterday he had no regrets about going on the run. "If I go back to Hong Kong I think that I'll never come back to see my family because next year Hong Kong will be taken over by China and everything will change. The only way was just to go into hiding."

Mr Tong, aged 43, came to Britain to visit his younger brother in Manchester on a one month visitor's visa in 1979, but later went to Cornwall where he met his future wife's family. The couple, who began living together in 1989, married in 1992.

Their hopes of remaining together in this country suffered a blow last month when the Court of Appeal ruled that

a Home Office deportation order was not open to judicial review. Lawyers are planning to challenge the deportation in the European Court of Human Rights, and the Tong's supporters argue that he should be allowed to remain in this country pending a hearing.

"It is quite appalling that this family should be bounded in this way," the Reverend David Haslam, secretary of the Churches Commission for Racial Justice, said yesterday.

"The Home Office just does not know when to give up. The churches have put forward a position of amnesty for families with children born and brought up here and for reasons of basic humanity the Government should listen."

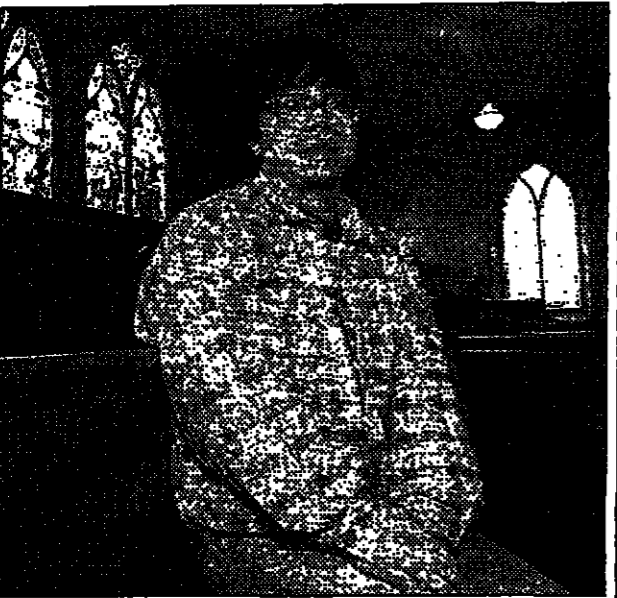
Mr Haslam said the legal right of sanctuary was removed in the early 17th century, and the authorities had the right to enter a place of worship to remove somebody. But he added: "We are quite clear that sanctuary is a powerful moral statement."

Ken Taylor, a member of the Friends of Albert Tong support group, said the chief constable of Devon and Cornwall had been informed of the situation and it was up to the police to decide what action to take.

He said Mr Tong had been provided with a bed at the church and that food was being brought in to him. A member of the support group would remain with him.

Devon and Cornwall police declined to comment, but the Home Office signalled a continued tough line.

"The concept of sanctuary no longer exists in law. Mr Tong is still the subject of a deportation order," said a spokeswoman.



Albert Tong in Marazion Methodist chapel, Cornwall, where he has taken refuge. PHOTOGRAPH: SAM MORGAN

## Nolan on sleaze mission

Ian Black

**L**ORD Nolan, the judge who investigated standards in public life in Britain, is being unleashed on the new democracies of eastern Europe to help them sort out their sleaze.

The propriety of the powerful will be the top of the agenda in visits next week to Poland and Hungary, both struggling with the transformation from communist to free-market economies where there are plenty of opportunities for making a few *zlotys* or *forints* on the side.

Lord Nolan, financed by the Foreign Office, will have his work cut out in both countries when he meets MPs, officials and legal experts to discuss standards and conflicts of interest.

In Poland, the president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, has

been cleared of a complaint about the income statement he submitted to the parliament in which he failed to list his wife's shares in an insurance company.

Mr Kwasniewski, a former communist, had earlier been forced to apologise for claim-



Lord Nolan: he will have his work cut out overseas

ing to have graduated from university after a court ruled he had no grounds to do so. He studied economics at Gdansk university but dropped out in his fifth year without gaining a degree.

He claimed in his defence that both incidents resulted from "nonchalance" rather than ill will.

Later Lord Nolan goes to Budapest where the government of the prime minister, Gyula Horn, has pledged to work to end corruption, abuses and unlawful property acquisition.

Lord Nolan, whose exacting reputation goes before him, has postponed a similar trip to Slovakia amid mounting concern in the West about the democratic credentials of the rightwing nationalist government of Vladimir Meciar. Its members are said by indiscreet diplomats to behave even worse than most British MPs.



Church history... Father Graeme Rowlands of Kentish Town, north London, tries on a 17th century French cope before the Bernheimer collection auction. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN APOLDS

## English embroidery takes pride of place in auction of vestment cast-offs of wealthy and pious

Madeleine Bunting

**F**OUR hundred years of fashion and textile history are up for sale today when the largest private collection of richly embroidered church vestments from all over Europe is auctioned.

Wealthy and pious ladies would during the Middle Ages donate their most magnificent cast-offs to the Catholic Church, providing beautiful brocades, velvets and silks for the priest's liturgy, some of which is expected to raise up to £16,000.

English embroidery was the most sought-after for its fine workmanship. An English 16th century cope depicting the Virgin Mary and Mary Magdalen at the Crucifixion is priced at £18,000, while a cope decorated with pomegranates and double-headed eagles has a guide price of up to £10,000.

The collection being sold by Christie's in London was assembled privately in Munich by the Jewish Bernheimer family, whose fortune was built on providing fabric for palaces built by the eccentric Bavarian monarch, Ludwig II, in the 19th century.

The family became legendary for its huge collection of carpets, tapestries and vestments.

As well as private textile collectors, museums from all over the world including Britain have expressed keen interest in the unusual sale. Vestments of this quantity and quality have not been up for auction since 1936.

Tricia Frost, of Christie's textiles department, said: "If you are a textile collector, the only place you will find medieval embroidery and textiles are in vestments. Domestic clothing just didn't survive but vestments were stored in the dark in sacristies in flat drawers and are well preserved."

Many vestments were embroidered with gold, or the material was woven with gold thread, and are literally "cloth of gold."

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## Child sex ring faces inquiry

**D**avid Brindle

**M**INISTERS will today discuss whether to order an inquiry into organised sexual abuse in children's homes.

The move comes after allegations of widespread abuse in North Wales, Cheshire and Merseyside.

The issue has been referred to the Cabinet's home and social affairs committee, chaired by Tony Newton, after William Hague, Welsh Secretary, last week failed to

agree with North Wales local authority leaders on how to publish the findings of an inquiry into alleged abuse in children's homes in Clwyd. The inquiry is believed to have found abuse was widespread but it is said to be unpublishable because of legal problems.

Concern has switched to Cheshire, where six care workers have been jailed for offences against children in care. More than 300 children may have been abused, according to allegations.

## Labour moves away from job rights promise

Seumas Milne

**L**ABOUR yesterday appeared to signal a move away from the commitment to give employment rights to all workers from the first day in a job.

At the GMB union conference in Blackpool, John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said the details and practicalities of the policy were under review and made no commitment to "protection against unfair dismissal from day one".

A spokesman for Tony Blair said that a review of labour market policies being prepared by Stephen Byers, the shadow employment and training minister, would be "presented in due course".

Mr Prescott's remarks came after a strikingly union-friendly speech in which he emphasised Labour's commitment to employment rights, stressed the importance of the party's union links and delivered a passionate defence of comprehensive education and an attack on selection. "I hated a society which said I was a failure at 11," he said.

But the "employment rights from day one" policy has particular significance for the trade union movement, and it was offered by the late John

Smith as an olive branch during the one member, one vote battle in 1993.

Workers are currently entitled to employment protection only after two years in the job.

John Edmonds, GMB general secretary, said that the case for unfair dismissal protection from the first day was overwhelming. No discussion had taken place with Labour about any retreat from Mr Smith's commitment.

The determination of the unions not to be excluded from Labour's dialogue with business over these issues will be emphasised today when the GMB plays host to nearly 100 company directors anxious to discuss Labour employment policies.

Industrialists representing more than 2 million people and representing some of Britain's best known companies — such as British Aerospace, ICI, Vickers, Rover and Pilkington — will come to Blackpool tonight to meet Mr Byers and Ian McCartney, another Labour employment spokesman.

The meeting, which will focus on the minimum wage, social chapter, and other Labour employment policies, is something of a coup for the GMB, which wants to underline its close working relationship with business.

## Head accused of racial bias

**T**HE headteacher who beat off charges of anti-heterosexual bias for turning down cut price ballet tickets to Romeo and Juliet for her pupils was yesterday accused by a teacher of racial discrimination.

Matthew Otobo, aged 51, from Nigeria, made the allegation against Jane Brown and the governors of Kingsmead Primary School in Hackney, east London, at an industrial tribunal.

Mr Otobo was suspended after allegations that he had struck pupils and could not control his class of five-year-olds.

The charges of gross misconduct were not proved in June 1993, but it took the governors a further month to reinstate him, despite legal advice to do so immediately, the tribunal heard.

The current chairman of governors, Pat Griffin, told the hearing at Stratford, east London, that after the case collapsed Ms Brown expressed new fears about Mr Otobo's ability to control classes, saying two children had been taken to hospital and others had left classes and wandered around the building.

Mrs Griffin said the new details were supplied by Ms

Brown, and that was enough to merit an investigation.

Mr Otobo's lawyer, Gerry German, asked why his client was not immediately reinstated as the local education authority personnel department had suggested.

Mrs Griffin said: "I was advised to go through the notes very carefully. It was a totally different issue." She said a new investigation was started and it took time to reconvene the board before agreeing to reinstate Mr Otobo.

He was reinstated in July 1993 after being suspended for seven months. He finally returned to work after illness in September 1994.

Mrs Griffin denied there had been any racism in the way the case was dealt with. She said the disciplinary committee had apologised to Mr Otobo.

Ms Brown had an offer to become a schools inspector but the Office for Standards in Education has withdrawn the offer until the tribunal case is settled. She will continue as head of Kingsmead, if the appointment is confirmed, and report on teaching and other standards at primary schools.

The tribunal is expected to end this week with a decision to be notified later.

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'The road to get this far has been long and difficult. I have no illusions about the future; that too, may be difficult. But together we have overcome so many obstacles in the past, and I believe we can do so again in the future' - John Major

'Ultimately the best service we can render to the victims of the conflict is to tackle the causes in such a way that the nightmare of violence will never return' - John Bruton

'Today we have heard strong views put by all the different sides, as we would expect, and we will consult with the parties individually and bilaterally to see how best we move this process forward' - Michael Ancram



On the outside... Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams (right), Martin McGuinness and Gerry Kelly demonstrate at Stormont gates at their exclusion from the talks PHOTOGRAPH STEPHEN DAVIDSON

'We are here to take our part with others in the collective task of building a peace settlement. We are here as peacebuilders' - Gerry Adams

'There may be some arguments. There will be arguments about procedures and agenda but we will sort those out. We will approach this process in a positive manner' - David Trimble

'We have succeeded in preventing the two governments from proceeding to hijack these talks, strangle these talks and destroy these talks and get the republican agenda into motion. That will not happen and it cannot happen' - Ian Paisley

# Irish talks stumble over Mitchell role

### Unionists reject Clinton's envoy as Sinn Fein demonstrates and Major, Bruton issue joint warning

David Sharrock  
Ireland Correspondent

THE Northern Ireland all-party talks were close to deadlock late last night as Unionists fought to block the appointment of President Clinton's special

Irish envoy, George Mitchell, as overall chairman. There were chaotic scenes at the Castle Buildings venue at Stormont in east Belfast as the talks got under way, 21 months after the IRA called a ceasefire and four months since it was ended with the bombing of Canary Wharf, east London.

As Sinn Fein demonstrated outside the gates at their exclusion from the talks, the British and Irish prime ministers, John Major and John Bruton, affirmed that only an unequivocal ceasefire announcement by the IRA would get them inside. The two premiers also made a joint appeal for progress beyond the day-long procedural wrangling by Unionists which was still keeping Mr Mitchell from taking his place inside the talks chamber by early evening. Mr Major held a private

meeting with Unionists before the talks opened in a bid to get them to accept Mr Mitchell as chairman. Unionists are objecting to him because they believe he will lean towards an Irish-American nationalist agenda. However, when the hard-line Democratic Unionist leader, Ian Paisley, and the UK Unionist leader, Bob McCartney, emerged to brief the press at 6pm there was little sign of a breakthrough. Mr Paisley said that Unionists had "succeeded in preventing the two governments

from proceeding to hijack these talks, to strangle these talks and to destroy these talks and get a republican agenda into motion." Mr McCartney said that for once Unionists had demonstrated a considerable degree of cohesion. "We have seen democracy at work." The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, was more circumspect, only saying that he was reserving judgment on Mr Mitchell's role. An hour earlier, Mr Major, looking relaxed and happy with the day's developments, said: "I think at the end of the day George Mitchell will prove to be acceptable."

The Prime Minister said another opportunity for a peace settlement might not come as easily. "The eyes of people, not just in Northern Ireland but in the Republic and elsewhere in the United Kingdom and right around the world are on these negotiations. There is a great deal of hope residing in the belief that these negotiations offer the best opportunity for a peaceful settlement in North-

ern Ireland which we have seen for many decades. "We cannot afford to fail because the opportunities now being opened, having reached this far in discussions, may not easily re-emerge were this opportunity not to be taken." He said that people were sick and tired of the wrangling. "They want their politicians and the governments to come together and actually see if they can find a solution. I think there is a powerful imperative, an obligation on the governments and all the parties to do everything they can to reach a settlement." If the parties failed they would not have to answer to the British and Irish governments. "They would have to answer to the people of Northern Ireland." Mr Bruton made history by speaking to elected Unionist politicians at negotiations held in Northern Ireland without protest. He stressed the changing face of Irish nationalism and the need to accommodate differing identities and allegiances. He took the opportunity to

put the two governments' proposal for a settlement at centre stage - even though Unionists have rejected it. "Both governments have accepted that we share a responsibility to lead the process of overcoming the divisions of the past and the search for a new accommodation." "In exercise of our leadership role, the two governments have described a shared understanding of the parameters of a possible outcome to the negotiations in the framework document of the New Framework for agreement. Both governments having acknowledged our responsibility, it is essential that we discharge it fully." The talks offered the first chance for over 70 years for all involved, "including those who have traditionally relied on physical force, to get round the same table to map out a future of peace, of justice, of hope." "The campaigning demand of the republican movement has been 'peace talks now'. Today is now. It is a matter of grave disappointment to me

government that Sinn Fein are not at this table today. The responsibility for ensuring that Sinn Fein can now take part rests clearly on the IRA, who have the capacity to restore unequivocally the cessation of violence of August 1994." "There will be no change in the position of the two governments. That position is rooted in democracy," he told the delegates. Earlier he attended the funeral of Garda detective Gerry McCabe, who was shot dead on Friday by paramilitaries, believed by Irish police to be IRA members. Outside the gates of the talks, the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, said he led his delegation "not to protest but to participate." But after a Northern Ireland Office official read out a joint government statement explaining that they would not be allowed in until the ceasefire was restored, Mr Adams said: "We feel cheated that we have been denied the right to be part of a collective process to build peace."

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## Rail cuts may hit commuters

Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

SECURITY guards on the railways could be employed in place of ticket inspectors to put people off trains by a newly privatised company anxious to cut costs on the heavily used London, Tilbury and Southend commuter route. Two security firms are to be invited by Prism Rail, a private consortium of bus companies, to tender for the contract. Prism has just been awarded a seven-year contract to operate passenger services on the 40-mile route. About 75 per cent of the line's income derives from season ticket holders, but with 200 arrests a month there is a disruptive element on the line which the company wants to eliminate. Part of its policy is to introduce automatic ticket gates at stations. The security guard move was attacked yesterday by Jimmy Knapp, leader of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT), who described it as a "classic case of being penny wise and pound foolish". He said the company was just looking for a short-term gain by cutting employment costs, but ultimately it would create a problem for passengers and substantial fall in the amount of revenue collected. Prism is offering staff three options. They can take redundancy, join the security company which gets the contract, or take alternative jobs, but RMT said there were no other jobs. If they transferred to a security firm they might receive inferior pay and conditions. Passenger receipts on the line amount to £51 million a year. LTS employs 40 revenue protection inspectors who gather more than £1 million from passengers who have not paid before boarding. Peter King, RMT's London divisional organiser, said: "Security companies have no knowledge of railway procedures, and passengers who have been unable to purchase a ticket will be thrown off trains. Customer care will go out of the window if this scheme is allowed." The plan is due to be considered by the Prism board this month.

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# Crunch day for rivals in Bangladesh

Arshad Mahmud in Dhaka

BAKING heat goes to the polls tomorrow for the second time in four months for what could be the ultimate showdown between two women whose feud has convulsed the country for two years.

If Begum Khaleda Zia, the former prime minister, or her rival, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, refuse to accept the people's verdict, then Bangladesh has little hope of closing the chapter on an era of conflict.

Polling will be watched by 40,000 soldiers and an army of election observers. Police have set up checkpoints in Dhaka to look for guns and bombs.

The election commissioner, Abu Hena, believes the day will pass off fairly peacefully, although some 15 people have been killed in campaign violence. "I am very confident that we will be able to hold a credible election this time," he said.

That was not the case in February when Mrs Zia pressed ahead with a general election despite a boycott by Sheikh Hasina's Awami League and the other main opposition parties, who argued that free and fair elections were only possible under a caretaker government.

The vote was widely seen as a sham.

Sheikh Hasina resumed her strike campaign soon after the February vote. Fearing more violence, Mrs Zia gave way. She stepped aside for an administration headed by a former judge, and elections were called.

But the opposition is still wary. "Beware of the thieves who stole votes in the last elections," Sheikh Hasina told a recent campaign meeting.

In retaliation, Mrs Zia threatened a boycott after accusing her rivals of trying to rig the polls. "Vote for the Bangladesh Nationalist Party to save the country from a disaster," she told her final campaign rally last night.

Although the Awami League is narrowly ahead in a poll conducted by the Power and Participation Centre, which gave it 31 per cent of the vote against 29 per cent for the BNP, most observers expect a hung parliament.

The Jatiya party of the jailed former military ruler, General Hossain Mohammed Ershad, could then hold the balance of power along with the religious Jamaat-e-Islami.

Beneath the political rivalry, and the heavy toll it has taken of hopes of modest economic progress in Bangladesh, lies the fear that the military may grow impatient with the civilian politicians.

Bangladesh returned to civilian rule only after the election of 1991 — which most observers regarded as fair — having been ruled by generals for much of the 25 years since independence.

Like last month, the prospect of a showdown with the military loomed after President Abdur Rahman Bhasia, a BNP member, sacked the army chief, accusing him of politicising the force. The fear of a return to military rule has not subsided, but it remains uncertain whether Bangladesh can put its turbulent past behind with these polls.

"I'm not doubtful about whether the election would be free and fair," said Bjorn Sternby, the Swedish ambassador. "I'm more concerned about what happens after that."

# Mongolia counts cost of blazes

Firefighters were ill-prepared for fires which devastated the north, reports Patrick Tyler in Honin Nuga

IT WAS the job of a leathery wildfire ranger named Myagmarsuren to protect the conifer forests draped across the low mountains.

And so on May 14, when he saw the first puffs of white smoke over the ridge from his cabin, he jumped on his pony and rode all afternoon to the nearest telegraph operator to raise the alarm.

By the time he got back, the valley was an inferno.

"For 17 straight days and nights, I fought the fire with only two or three hours of sleep each day," he said outside his cabin, which stands in a valley around 140 miles north of the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator. Above and behind him are charred forests.

"People came on horseback to help fight the fire," said Myagmarsuren, who like many Mongols uses only one name. "Even prisoners came from the prison to help, and some people had no better tools than bows cut from the trees to beat the flames."

After a winter of precious little snow, raging firestorms began in March and continued throughout the spring across northern Mongolia. The fires are the worst civil defence officials can remember.

So far 26 people have died and nearly 600 nomads have been injured or rendered shelterless by the blazes. About 7,600 head of livestock have been killed and telephone links to dozens of settlements scorched more than 23 million acres, an area greater than Scotland.

In one eastern settlement, 16 people perished at once when a wall of flame incinerated their collection of yurts, the traditional dwelling tents of the steppe.

Now, the worst appears to be over.

Civil defence authorities said last week that after three-and-a-half months

nearly all the fires are under control. Those that remain are burning across an 80-mile front in the Lake Hövsgöl region near Russia.

Officials said that up to one-fifth of Mongolia's coniferous forest had been ravaged by the fires. Grassland will regenerate this year, but only after weeks of rainfall. Until then herds are in danger, experts say. The forests will take much longer.

In many respects, the damage seems incalculable. Rural supplies of fuel, food and money have been drastically depleted and the summer planting season seriously disrupted.

In a Western country, a similar disaster would prompt a nationwide mobilisation. But in Mongolia, still mired in the torpor of post-communist economic recovery, the total firefighting arsenal consists of 16 truck-mounted water pumps, 133 backpack water pumps, 10 chain saws, 34 shovels, 24 rakes and 23 axes.

Poor communications have hampered firefighters, and the logistics of equipping and feeding the teams have constantly broken down. A third of firefighters did not even report for duty because of low pay and poor morale.

A lack of readiness was certainly the problem in Honin Nuga, where the surrounding mountains are still smouldering, evidence of the inferno which is gradually succumbing to summer rains that began last week.

Myagmarsuren hopes eventually to have a two-way radio in his candlelit cabin so he can call for help more quickly.

"My job is to fight calamities, and this was the first one of my career," he said. "My dream would be that I would not have to ride a horse so far just to communicate. We need something better." — New York Times

Roeg strolls into his distributor's office wearing an instant-charisma fedora. He shakes hands and asks for an ashtray. "I'm going to smoke you out of here" he threatens.



Hizbullah strikes... An injured Israeli soldier is flown out of occupied south Lebanon. Five Israelis were killed and six wounded in a guerrilla ambush. PHOTOGRAPH: YARON MANENSKI

# Concern grows about human rights in Tunisia

Leslie Pionner

A GROWING body of evidence that independent comment is being suppressed in Tunisia is threatening to blacken the image of the Mediterranean tourist destination, whose government claims to be above the abuses that characterise much of the Arab world.

While Tunisia has angrily rejected a recent European Parliament declaration of concern over civil rights restrictions in the country, a series of examples spanning the past six months lends support to concerns over harassment of government critics and their families and the absence of press freedom.

On May 23, the day MEPs passed their resolution, the president of the International Federation of Human Rights, Patrick Baudouin, was bundled on to the next plane back to Paris after arriving in Tunisia. Labelled an "undesirable" and accused of "provocative behaviour" by state-controlled media, Mr Baudouin had hoped to discuss the human rights situation with Tunisia's political leaders.

A fortnight earlier, the executive director of the Tunis-based Arab Institute of Human Rights, Frei Fennich, was arrested at the airport while trying to board a flight to France to attend a meeting. Accused of carrying "compromising documents" on human rights in Tunisia, he

was held for four days before being freed on May 14.

Another group, the long-established Tunisian League for Human Rights, has suffered persistent hounding by the authorities, who have tried to pack it with government sympathisers despite its status as a private body.

On May 21, the league won a court case through which the interior ministry was trying to compel it to accept members it did not want. But according to the authoritative London-based Arabic newspaper al-Hayat, people associated with the league continue to be intimidated.

Three former league officials — Al-Munif al-Marzouqi, Mustapha ben Jaafar and Sharn ben Sadrem — are all banned from travelling outside Tunisia, al-Hayat reports.

The newspaper also says that one of its contributors — Saleh Bechir, a Tunisian head of Tunisia's main legal opposition party on charges of being a Libyan agent.

Both organisations say the charges and evidence against Mohammed Mouda were fabricated. A literature professor who is president of the Movement of Democratic Socialists, Mr Mouda is the government's most vociferous critic. He admits sympathies for Libya, but insists his innocence and patriotism.

The authorities claimed they had seized a briefcase containing documents connecting him with Libya and "millions of dollars". If true,

# Land rush crushes peasants who survived so much

Mozambique's government is granting huge concessions to the Frelimo party elite, writes Andrew Meldrum in Maputo

PULLING weeds from their scrubby patch of manioc, Julietta Cossa sighed and pointed down the hillside to a fertile green swath of land.

"That was our land, the land of our ancestors," she said. "We grew several different crops there. We had plenty to eat and some produce to sell. Now that land is fenced off and we can't even visit our family cemetery. We are stuck here, on this rocky hillside."

Ms Cossa, aged 33, recounted the plight of her rural community of Umpana — nearly 100 families that once farmed the rich valley in the Boma district of southern Mozambique. After surviving Portuguese colonial rule and a 15-year civil war, the community planned to expand its farming and as a co-operative bought pipes to pump river water for irrigation.

"Then a man came with lots of papers who told us we no longer had the right to the land. He told us to get off the land," said Ms Cossa. "A tractor came and tore up all our crops. We were chased away. The government administrator told us we no longer had rights to the land."

The community was assigned another plot but then was forced off by a "white South African" who said he had bought the land. Now they have settled on the stony hillside.

"We have scattered plots on marginal land and our work as co-operatives is paralysed," said Ms Cossa.

The plight of the Umpana community is being mirrored throughout Mozambique as the three-year-old peace feeds a land-rush by foreign and local investors. Far from defending the rights of the rural commu-

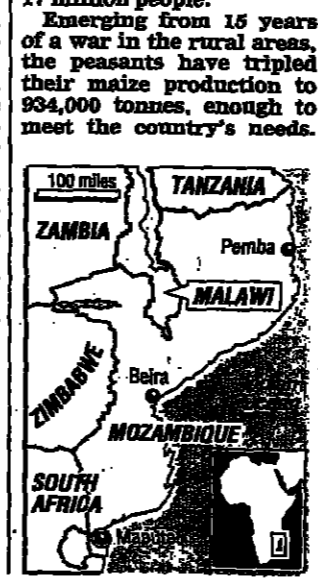
nities, the Frelimo government has granted huge concessions of land to party leaders and well-connected businessmen, according to many land experts.

The land-grab is the final tarnishing of Frelimo's once glowing reputation for acting in the interests of the people. It appears the once-Marxist party has abandoned all pretence of working to improve the lot of its impoverished majority.

The government said it would protect the poor," said Ms Cossa. "Instead, it is giving land to people who have pumps, who have tractors and tractors. Those are rich people and they should develop other areas that are not already settled."

Mozambique, ranked by the World Bank as the world's poorest country, boasts 26 million hectares of arable land, only 10 per cent of which is currently being cultivated. About 90 per cent of those cultivating the land are from the 2.5 million peasant families who make up 80 per cent of Mozambique's 17 million people.

Emerging from 15 years of a war in the rural areas, the peasants have tripled their maize production to 934,000 tonnes, enough to meet the country's needs.



This is an important achievement for a country that has been dependent upon food aid for a decade. In addition, Mozambique's small farmers are credited with producing 60 per cent of the country's export crops of cashews, cotton and coconut (copra).

All land is owned by the state. Rural communities have rights of occupancy granted by *regulos*, traditional authorities. But the state can grant concessions for the use of land, which the Frelimo government is doing to attract investment. The government is reforming the confusing land law and a national conference was held last week to suggest amendments to the legislation.

"The new law should recognise effective occupancy of land by the rural people," said Jose Negro, director of the Land Study Group of Eduardo Mondlane University. "The conference succeeded in introducing several measures to strengthen protection of peasants' rights, and to increase transparency in the allocation of land. That law will go before parliament and we will see if Frelimo will pass it or change it."

By its strongly anti-peasant stance at the conference, it appears certain Frelimo will weaken protection for the rural communities. Joao Ferreira, a Frelimo member of parliament and a former agriculture minister, told the conference: "Why should we reserve 20 million hectares for poor people who don't even pay taxes?"

He said many party officials were granted land concessions which they used as capital in joint ventures with foreign and local developers.

Back on the rocky outcrop of Umpana, far away from the legal wrangling, Ms Cossa said she hoped her community would be restored to its traditional land. "We pray that we can get our land back. We hope to hear on the radio that we will get our land back."

## News in brief

### Four dead after Naples hydrofoil hits rocks

A HYDROFOIL packed with commuters and tourists struck rocks and capsized off a small island in the Bay of Naples yesterday, killing at least four people and injuring many others.

The ferry had about 167 passengers and crew on board when it hit rocks in thick fog off the island of Procida at about 8.45 am as it headed towards the port of Naples a few miles away. Officials said the evacuation of the ship was relatively orderly, with passengers and crew having time to put on life-jackets before it turned over.

The survivors swam to shore or were picked up by fishing boats. Divers recovered the bodies of four elderly Italians — three women and a man — from the water. Most of the passengers were treated by medical crews on the docks and at the island's small hospital.

The hydrofoil was operated by the SNAV ferry company which runs regular services between Naples and the islands of Capri, Ischia and Procida, as well as popular coastal resorts. — Reuter

### Workers unite against Bonn

Dieter Schulte, the chairman of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB), warned yesterday that more than 200,000 workers would demonstrate against a government austerity plan in "the most powerful union protest in post-war Germany" in Bonn.

The rally on Saturday in Bonn is intended as the climax of more than a month of protests against plans to cut social spending and employment rights in an effort to tackle a soaring budget deficit and combat high unemployment. — Reuter

### Detainee asks Jiang for freedom

A SENIOR Chinese official released last month from a seven-year jail term imposed after the 1989 pro-democracy protests appealed yesterday to the Communist Party chief, Jiang Zemin, to free him from house arrest.

Bao Tong, aged 63, was freed from prison on May 27 and has since been held under house arrest at a dormitory of the State Council, or cabinet, on Beijing's western outskirts.

"Sitting in jail in Qiancheng prison, there was a limit... sitting in a cage in the Western hills, there is no limit," he wrote.

The former aide to ex-Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang mailed 30 copies of his letter to senior party officials.

"To uphold the solemnity of the law, I earnestly request the party and state leaders to instruct the relevant authorities to rectify this illegal action," he said. — Reuter

### Rwanda fires governors

THE Rwandan government has sacked the governors of two insurgency-hit regions bordering Zaire and Burundi, officials said yesterday.

Both were Hutus, the majority tribe which unleashed the genocide of minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates in 1994. Diplomats said they were both replaced by Hutus.

In a departure from the official line that the situation in Rwanda is stable, one of the governors, Theobald Rutunduza, last month told aid agencies that security was worsening. — Reuter

### EU states divided over quotas for foreign television shows

EUROPEAN UNION countries will today try to agree rules on television broadcasting but appear split over the most controversial issue — quotas on foreign shows.

Italy is likely to delay an agreement on quotas when EU culture ministers meet in Luxembourg to discuss the plan, an EU spokesman, Juan Roldán, said.

EU officials said Italy's new government appeared to be taking a harder line close to that of France which had sought to spell

### Slovenia rewarded

Slovenia was rewarded yesterday for distancing itself from the Yugoslav conflict by being given an association agreement with the European Union, which promises trade and economic incentives and immediately applied for full EU membership. — Reuter

### Blasts hit Punjab

At least six people were killed and 48 wounded in three bomb explosions — including one which wrecked a bus — in the Pakistani province of Punjab yesterday, police and hospital doctors said. The official news agency APP put the death toll at eight. There were no immediate claims of responsibility. — Reuter

### Pregnancy toll

Complications during pregnancy or childbirth are among the leading causes of death among women in developing countries, claiming about 1,600 lives a day, a new study by Unicef, the World Health Organisation and Johns Hopkins University has said. — Reuter

### Ass trade

Iran, apparently seeking to reverse a fall in non-oil exports, has authorised the export of 30,000 donkeys the daily Kayhan newspaper reported yesterday. — Reuter

Opening the peace gate

A renewed ceasefire is still the key to success

BRITISH politicians and public opinion should not take pleasure from the shutting of the gates against Gerry Adams yesterday. There is a tendency in this country, following all the IRA bombs and the Sinn Fein evasions, to want to see Mr Adams and his colleagues taken down a peg or three. That tendency is very understandable in its way, but it is politically short-sighted.

Yet it was a setback rather than a disaster. The talks which began yesterday amidst considerable posturing on all sides, are on a wider and more hopeful basis than those which have gone before. There has not been a time when quite so many of the real players in Northern Ireland have been willing to gather under one roof.

The substance of the talks is also more firmly based than it would have been had the peace process not taken place. Three points cannot be dismissed. First, the meat of the agenda is the Framework Document produced by

London and Dublin last year, the most substantive blueprint for an equitable and democratic compromise settlement of the Northern Ireland question to have emerged in the last quarter of a century. Only the most pessimistic of pessimists would dismiss it as a basis for future progress.

None of this is to fudge the real failure which Sinn Fein's non-involvement represents. This stage of the peace process was predicated upon Sinn Fein's presence under ceasefire conditions, and that ought still to be the case. Nothing is more desirable in Northern Ireland than the restoration of that ceasefire.

An unnecessary privatisation

British Energy is being sold for a quick financial fix

IN AN ideal world someone should be able to take out an injunction to prevent yesterday's privatisation of British Energy (BE) from taking place until an independent body like the Audit Commission has worked out just how much the taxpayer is being taken for a ride.

massive gift from the public to the private sector. What is not clear from yesterday's prospectus is whether all the potential liabilities of BE — especially decommissioning costs and the multi-billion-pound bill for getting rid of spent fuel — have been privatised as well as the assets.

Two crucial questions remain unanswered. First, why is it necessary to privatise a company fraught with such serious environmental problems, whose future strategy is geared to diversifying away from its sole product (nuclear power) when nearly all utilities have proved to be inept at diversification?

15 parrot cries aren't a policy

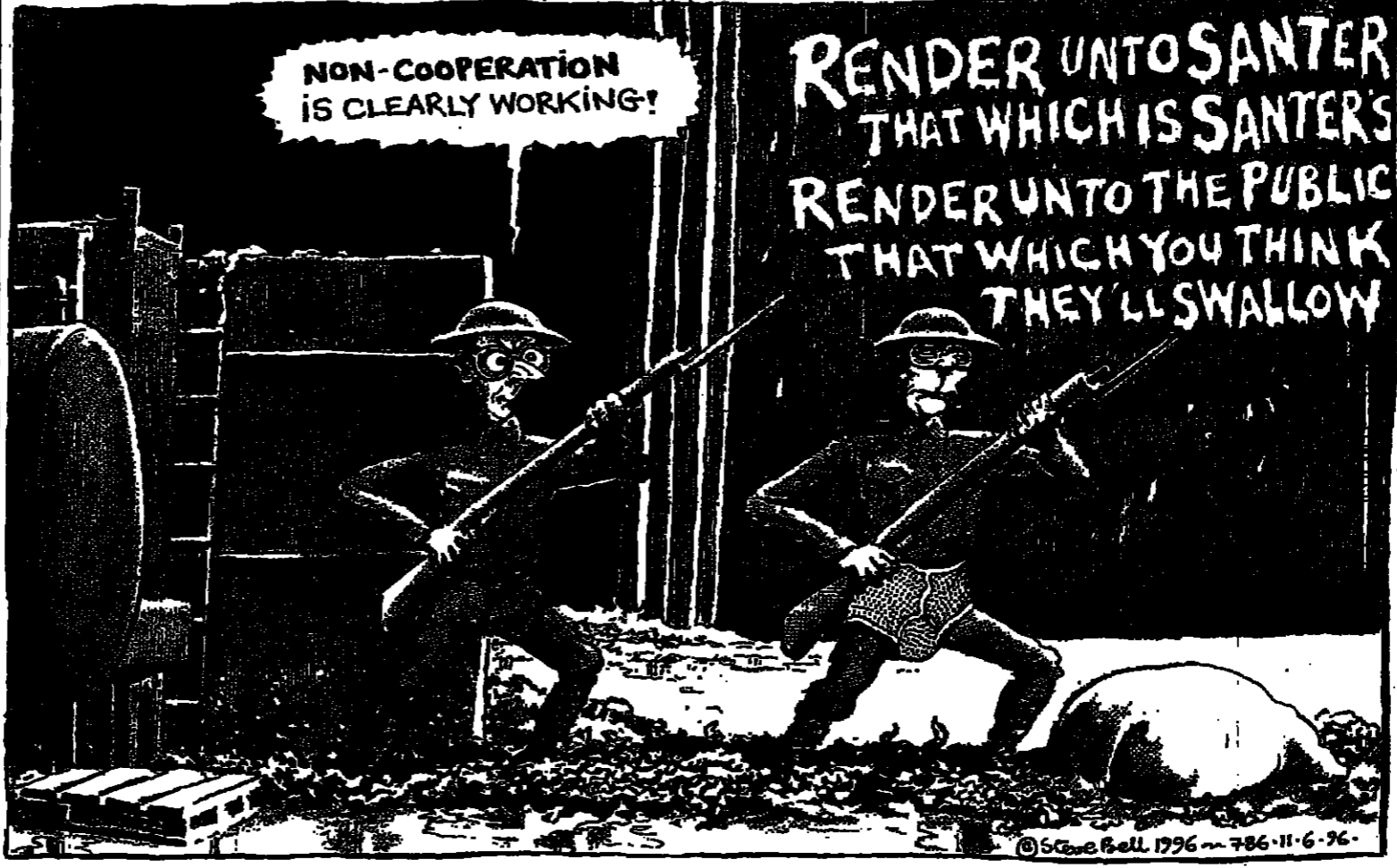
If the EU didn't exist, fishing policies would have invented it

THOSE who insist that Europe should only be a continent of nation states — and we shall hear a lot about that today in the Commons from Bill Cash — ought to think about what happened in Luxembourg yesterday.

One by one, the fisheries ministers said their pieces. In every single instance, the message was Not Me. Guv. Fifteen times, in 15 different ways, ministers explained that overfishing is something that other countries' fishing industries do.

inevitable structural limitations of a system in which defence of national rights is seen as more important than collective international problem-solving. The fundamental fact about the fish in our seas is that there are fewer and fewer of them.

That is why it falls to the Commission to propose the only policy which is good for the long-term health of Europe's fishing industry. Thank goodness for the European Commission. It speaks for the wider interest of Europe and its seas.



Letters to the Editor

Birt's world disservice

IT IS often said that the BBC World Service (a mission to destroy, June 10) is the only institution in this country of which we can today be proud.

Something of that belief is still around and what the World Service broadcasts today is still widely held to be the "truth", but what may not be so widely known is the apparent conviction of many in this country that it is to be preferred to the BBC's domestic news service.

I SHARE John Tusa's concern with the latest Birrian shake-up of its news service. The news and analysis provided on Newshour is far superior to the dreary, domestic preoccupations of Radio 4's Today.

LIKE any large organisation, the BBC has horizontal and vertical structures, and some of the reorganisations over the past years make good sense.

enfranchised and the commissioners may become as remote from the programme-makers as the new managers are now.

AMONG the advantages John Birt expects to follow from his new, overworked bureaucracy, never once has he mentioned originality.

God and science, each with their fundamental truths

MARK LAWSON (God is not dead, June 10) exemplifies the sterility of modern discussions of religion in society, as seen in bewildered laments about irrationality and some ancestral need to believe.

MARK LAWSON serious in saying that "religion cannot explain the suffering?" Christianity has a perfectly good explanation of suffering, that it is the consequence of sin.

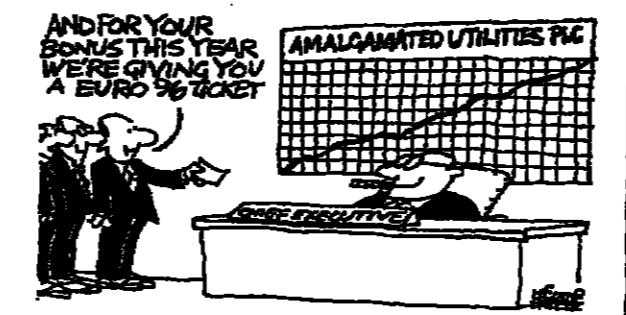
WE LIVE in a country with a state religion and this has deeply structured our sense of freedom, jobs, status, official positions, places at schools and social life in general.

ANY SURVEY on the existence of God prompted by the British Humanist Association could and should be viewed with some suspicion.

What a drag

PROPOS Hugo Young's comments on Philip Morris's attempts to buy respectability (Commentary, June 6).

HOW could Maggie Brown hit the Square Window, June 5 call Playdays limp, and how dare the BBC scrap it?



Fans' net loss at Euro 96

PLEASED as I am to see football coming home, I am disgusted to see that home supporters are being priced out of coming to matches (Supporters are forced into penalty area, June 8).

SOME small and faintly phony synthetic banners for Euro 96 have been placed along the North Circular Road and feeder roads around Wembley.

Street, with fittings purpose made for large banners, are currently empty.

AS the month-long festival of lager-drinking, machismo and jingoistic flag-waving, otherwise known as Euro 96, gets underway, could we have a promise that football coverage in the Guardian will be confined exclusively to what are still known, rather oddly in the circumstances, as the sports pages?

Biologists play the race card

ALTHOUGH Dr Maurice Bradley (Letters, June 10) may think that "the word species is a history of misnomers, and fundamentally separates 'races', that underpins beliefs in racial superiority", this is not how the word is used by biologists.

WHAT is important is to realise that the variety of races — of homo sapiens for example — is a function of the climatic and environmental differences that occur on our planet and not a dehumanising excuse to grade into superior or inferior.

is the appropriate word, with no implication that one is superior to another.

Human races are often so different that they might well have been regarded as separate subspecies or even species, were it not for the fact that they can and often do interbreed to produce viable hybrids. For this reason "race"

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: The steep roadside embankment behind the old brickworks site is carpeted with sheets of Birds-foot Trefol, many of the bright yellow flowers being flushed with red from which the plant gets one of its folk-names: Eggs and bacon.

ange-tips are a regular sight around the long lines of Hedge Garlic along the river bank, although I have yet to see the less obvious female, and the diminutive Small Copper has been taking full advantage of some fine days to bask in the sun on its favourite stone or patch of earth.

Listening to the distant voices of schizophrenia

NO ONE would argue that nearly and more accurate diagnosis of severe mental illnesses like schizophrenia would benefit both the individual and society as a whole (Positive thoughts for negative minds, Society, June 5).

THE automatic linking of schizophrenia with violence made in this article does a great disservice to the majority of people diagnosed with schizophrenia who are not violent but on whom the full-out — the public's acceptance that they should be "controlled" by some form of medication — lands.

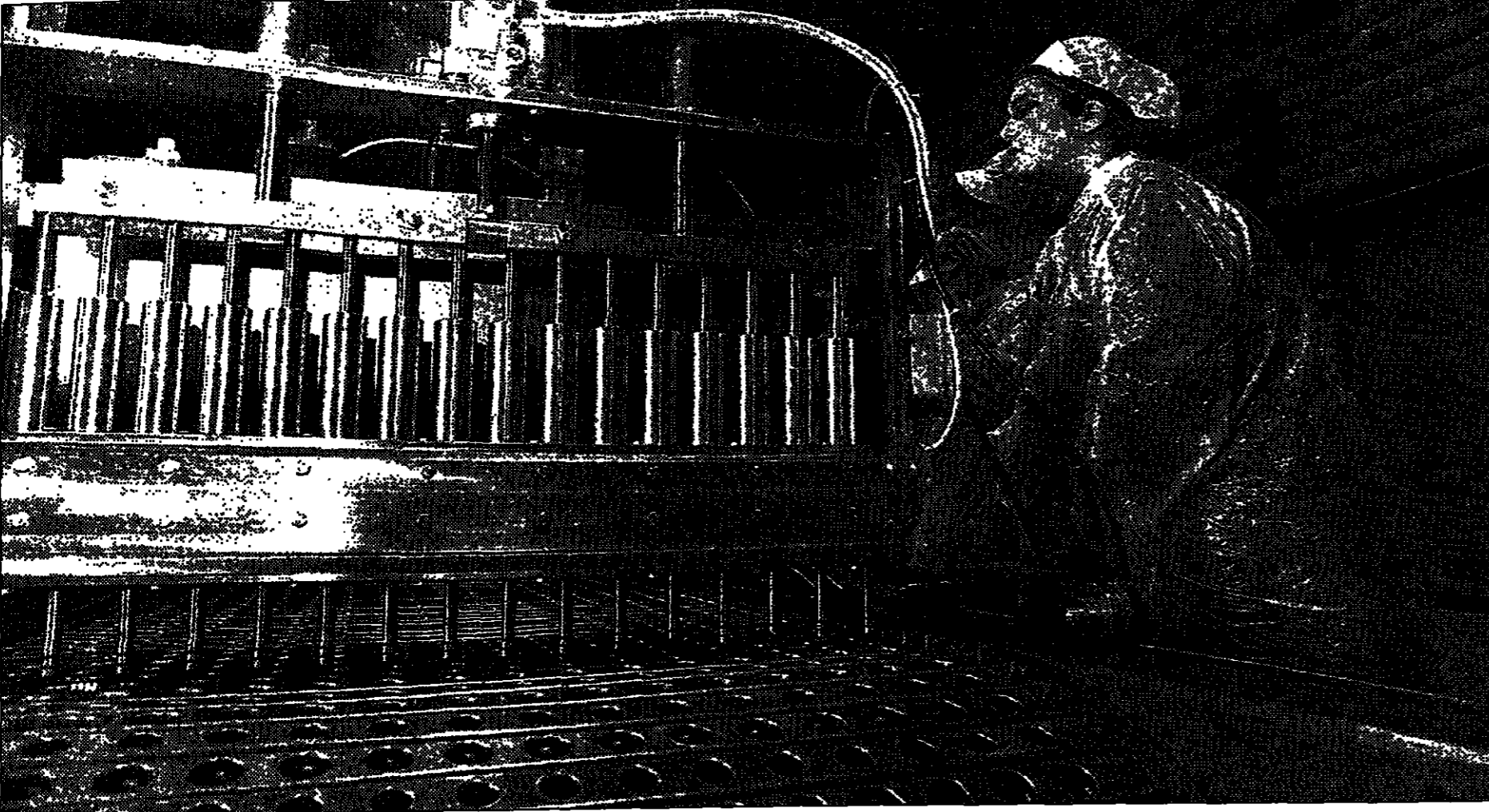
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The Guardian











Cool customers... Staff at Treats ice cream factory in Leeds enjoy the heatwave as the company is placed on the Stock Exchange with a price tag of £19.5 million. The firm used to make Wall's ice cream before being hived off from Unilever under a management buyout in 1991. Dealings in the shares, placed at 174p, begin on Thursday

# BA to unveil deal with US airline

**Keith Harper**  
**Transport Editor**

BRITISH Airways and American Airlines are expected today to announce plans to establish a wide-ranging booking and marketing alliance which has already provoked threats of "open war" from their rivals.

The move is likely to fall foul of regulatory scrutiny, as competitors line up against what would be the most powerful inter-carrier alliance in the world. Both companies dominate the transatlantic market, with two-thirds of traffic between Britain and the US.

The alliance would join the worldwide reach of BA, the biggest international carrier, with American's unparalleled route network in the US and Latin America.

The news, which leaked out in the US yesterday, was received with caution by analysts. Both carriers have been discussing the plan for a year, but regulators in the US and Britain could force them to give up so many routes that final agreement would be impossible.

BA refused to comment about the talks, but Hans Mirka, senior vice-president of American's international division, said that if American and BA tried to link operations, winning the approval of both governments could be a lengthy process.

Virgin Atlantic Airways, the No 3 carrier between the US and Britain, threatened "open warfare" against the alliance. Delta Airlines, with which BA is also talking, said it would oppose the alliance unless British and the US signed an "open skies" agreement giving greater access to coveted slots at Heathrow in the most important airport in the world for international connections.

US negotiators say any "open skies" agreement would have to include greater access for its carriers because BA controls 40 per cent of slots. Talks between the British and American governments are still bogged down.

The success of the venture rests on the ability of BA and American to obtain immunity from US anti-trust laws so they can pool information on prices.

Keith McMullan, director of Avmark International, an aviation consulting firm in London, said BA and American have been in talks about forming a joint venture which could ultimately be used to pool the assets of their North Atlantic divisions.

One of the crucial factors in the debate is the impact such a move would have on USAir, another American carrier, in which BA has a 24.8 per cent share. Mr McMullan said this would not be affected, but if it went ahead, the tie-up could "exert some control over prices and capacity on the North Atlantic."

First drop in four years • Interest rate reduction vindicated • Consumer confidence surging back

# Manufacturers cut prices

**Sarah Ryle**

LAST week's surprise interest rate cut was supported by official figures yesterday showing dramatically reduced inflationary pressure in manufacturing in May.

But the cut is likely to come under scrutiny again today following a survey of high street sales showing a strong rise in spending.

Manufacturers struggling to shift unsold stocks cut factory gate prices in May by 0.1 per cent, the first monthly drop since August 1992, according to the Office for National Statistics.

As a result, the annual rate of output price growth fell to 2.9 per cent in May, from 3.2 per cent in April, the lowest rate of increase since December 1994.

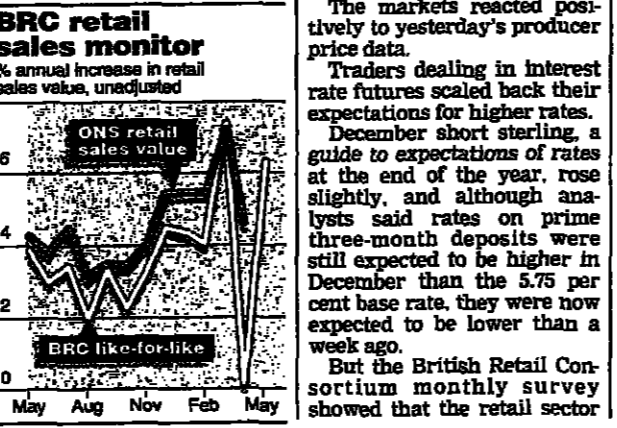
Core prices, which exclude

food, drink, tobacco and petroleum, rose by 0.1 per cent and 2 per cent over the year, down from 2.7 per cent previously. It was the lowest rate of core output inflation since October 1994.

The fall in factory gate prices reflected a drop in input costs (raw materials and fuel) paid by manufacturers. The annual rate of increase dropped to 1.1 per cent from 2 per cent.

Mr Clarke would not have seen the latest producer price figures until Thursday night, after he had implemented the cut in interest rates earlier that day, ONS officials said.

City analysts said lower factory gate prices could feed through to the high street, with some suggesting that if retail price pressures also reduced, the Chancellor might cut rates again in the autumn — the party conference season.



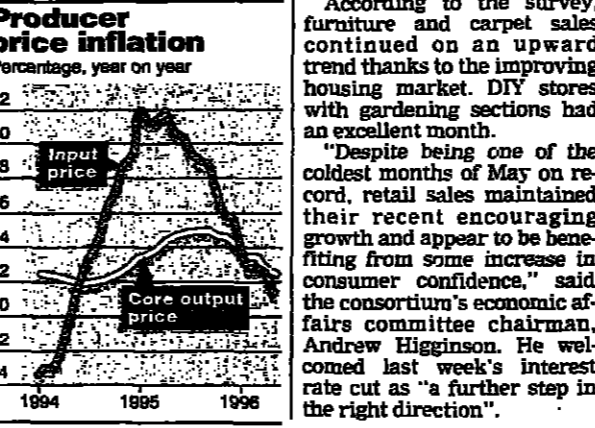
strengthened significantly even before Mr Clarke took the City by surprise with last week's rate cut.

Spending on the high street rose by 6.2 per cent in May compared with the corresponding time last year and the increase was the second biggest on record.

The average growth rate over the last three months was 4.1 per cent, and the May level was only bettered by the 7.5 per cent growth in March, believed to have been artificially boosted by Easter.

According to the survey, furniture and carpet sales continued on an upward trend thanks to the improving housing market. DIY stores with gardening sections had an excellent month.

"Despite being one of the coldest months of May on record, retail sales maintained their recent encouraging growth and appear to be benefiting from some increase in consumer confidence," said the consortium's economic affairs committee chairman, Andrew Higginson. He welcomed last week's interest rate cut as "a further step in the right direction."



# Low inflation is not enough, say international bankers

**MARK MILNER reports from Basle on how people in the industrialised world are affected by job insecurity**

LOW inflation, the prospect of at least moderate economic growth has failed to generate a "feel good" factor in the industrialised world because of continuing job insecurity, according to the Bank for International Settlements.

In its annual report, out yesterday, the BIS warns that a combination of competition from emerging economies, technological changes, a lower cost of

capital and efforts to cut government deficits "are now interacting powerfully in ways that, although sure to create wealth over time, may threaten job security in the near term."

Two of the key issues which need to be addressed quickly by the industrialised world — fiscal deficits and labour market rigidities — will add to deflationary pressures, according to the Basle-based bank.

But while the BIS argues that greater labour market flexibility is necessary in Europe — not least to offset the hardening of exchange rates within the European Union — it acknowledges that such flexibility is not an answer in itself to worries about job security.

It cites the example of the US: "In spite of a long history of market liberalisation and record profit levels (in the US) in 1995, corporate announcements of takeovers, mergers and lay-offs continue unabated."

Andrew Crockett, BIS general manager, was diplomatic yesterday when asked about the recent cut

vailing atmosphere of job insecurity may well have contributed to the recent weakness of both wage demands and consumer spending.

"Though the bank is clearly pleased by the containment of inflationary pressures, it warns against complacency.

"In Europe, for example, "if the rate of structural unemployment does not decline, with associated dangers of social unrest, pressures could arise for an inflationary solution."

Andrew Crockett, BIS general manager, was diplomatic yesterday when asked about the recent cut

# Foods bring home the bacon at Unigate

**Outlook/Heavy restructuring leaves group cash rich and refocused, writes Pauline Springett**

THE restructuring is almost complete and the hunt is on for the next round of acquisitions.

The City yesterday gave Unigate credit for a set of results which were broadly in line with expectations, and a strategy that is starting to look properly focused.

Unigate has reorganised itself into two core divisions: foods and distribution. To achieve this it has sold off businesses outside these core areas, many of which were underperforming anyway.

In the past year, Unigate's main disposal was of its 29 per cent stake in Dutch foods group Nutricia. It had owned the stake since 1981 but had lately decided it could probably make more money, and have more control, by investing elsewhere.

The Nutricia sale earned a profit of £212.3 million. During the year, Unigate also sold its Glitspur exhibitions business, for a profit of £1.5 million. More recently, it has also found a buyer for the US Black-eyed Pea restaurant chain. That is expected to make a loss on sale of nearly

ham and pork processing company.

Mr Buckland is clearly very proud of Malton, which now generates more sales than Unigate's traditional business of selling liquid milk. Malton's sales are currently running at £350 million a year, compared to £180 million three years ago. Unigate has recently spent another £31 million on three small add-on acquisitions to Malton, and the division shows no sign of stopping.

One of Malton's more recent successes is exporting

**Unigate**

**Main activity:** Foods and distribution. Supplies milk via shops and doorstep deliveries. Foods includes chilled St Ivel range plus Malton pork products.

£	% change	
Sales	2,134m	+12.7
Pre-tax profit	299m	+413
Earnings per share	112.2p	+472
Dividend	15.2p	+5.5

**Turnover 1996**

Category	Percentage
US Restaurants	0.7%
Logistics	18.5%
Fresh foods	52.3%
Dairies	22.2%

remain under pressure while financial markets "continue to be subject to large, unpredictable price swings."

It sounded a note of warning about "a renewed appetite for risk on the part of investors, which seemed to be prompted by the general reduction in bond yields... the potential for an abrupt change in this appetite for risk should not be underestimated."

German joblessness fell by a less-than-expected 7,000 in May, the government said, as weak economic growth continued to weigh down the labour market.

**Kleinwort shake-up for troubled Euro fund**

**Ian King**

KLEINWORT Benson yesterday announced a long-awaited shake-up of its troubled European Privatisation Trust (Kept), the £500 million fund it launched in a blaze of publicity two years ago.

Kleinwort, which was attacked by furious investors at Kept's annual meeting in January, said the proposals were intended to narrow the substantial discount to net asset value at which the fund's shares trade.

Kept was one of two funds launched in 1994 aimed at cashing in on the European privatisations. The other was launched by Mercury, and together they raised more than £1 billion and attracted more than 100,000 small investors.

However, following poor performances from many European privatisation stocks, the two funds have traded at significant discounts to net asset value.

Yesterday's news sent Kept shares up 1p to 92p, against the net asset value of 108p.

# Shares in Bank of Scotland slide

**Tony May**

SHARES in Bank of Scotland fell 7 per cent yesterday after Standard Life Assurance ended months of speculation about a takeover of Scotland's premier bank by announcing that it would sell "a substantial part" of its 32.2 per cent stake in the bank to a range of investors.

Since Standard Life, the UK's largest mutual life insurer, said last month that it wanted to reduce or sell its stake, in order to diversify into other investments, the City has been anticipating a bid for the bank should the entire holding be sold to a single buyer.

News that the sale would be a widely marketed secondary offering sent shares in the 300-year-old institution down by 21.5p to 243p on one stage, wiping £219 million off its market value. The shares recovered to 247p, valuing Standard's stake at £970 million, down £73 million on the day.

A banking analyst suggested that one reason Standard had decided to sell its stake was fear that Labour government windfall tax on bank profits would substantially reduce the value of the insurer's holding.

Standard Life said it made its decision after a four-week review. It had grown concerned that the investment, which amounts to 8 per cent of the group's UK equity portfolio, was too large for a single sale, although it has increased sixfold in value since it was bought from Barclays Bank for £155 million in 1965.

A joint statement said Bank of Scotland would assist Standard in carrying out a secondary offering.

Bank of Scotland governor Sir Bruce Pattullo, who resigned from Standard's board on the original announcement, said: "Naturally, we are sad that Standard Life has decided to reduce its stake."

# News in brief

**Rebel Names call special meeting**

REBEL Names at Lloyd's of London have called an extraordinary general meeting to demand significant improvements to the market's proposed £3.1 billion compensation deal, which is due to be finalised in the next few weeks. The firm will take place immediately after the annual meeting on July 18. The Names are demanding more money and a 3 per cent levy on the profits of the ongoing Lloyd's market for the next 15 years.

Lloyd's is increasingly confident, however, that most Names favour its proposals. A Lloyd's spokesman said: "We do not believe it is possible to make any further major alterations to the plan." — Pauline Springett

**Price wars wound Salvesen**

THE UK supermarket wars have helped trim Christian Salvesen's profits from £77.7 million to £76.6 million in the year to March. Its logistics division, which delivers for Sainsbury among other food groups, saw operating profits cut by £1.8 million to £43.4 million.

But the group has diversified, and its Aggreko temperature and power control division raised its operating profit by 15 per cent to £90.7 million. The volume of processing business at the group's food services division fell 12 per cent in the summer drought and profits slipped by £1.5 million to £6.6 million. — Tony May

**N&P members favour cash**

NATIONAL & Provincial Building Society members have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a cash rather than a share windfall when their society is taken over by the Abbey National in August. Nearly 80 per cent of the 850,000 long-term investors opted for cash. Some 35 per cent of the £1.35 billion Abbey is paying for N&P will be distributed to members in shares. — Teresa Hunter

**Berisford prospects mixed**

BERISFORD said second-half prospects for its two core businesses, Welbilt food services and Magnet building products, were mixed. After announcing a 7 per cent rise in profit to £11.9 million for the half-year to May, John Scriver, the chairman, said that in Britain the building products market remained depressed while there were tentative signs of an increase in domestic kitchen sales. — Tony May

**Housing recovery patchy**

THE recovery in the housing market remained patchy last year, the Land Registry, which yesterday published its first annual report on property prices. After London, Hampshire and the West Midlands recorded most sales, followed by Essex, Kent and Lancashire. Surrey was the most expensive area, with an average home costing £113,368, against the London average of £96,028. Cheapest areas included South Yorkshire, with a £47,881 average, and Humberside, £46,000. — Teresa Hunter

The Guardian  
Rugby Union  
Unilate  
set the

Derby betting  
takes a dive

ES

102

Rugby Union

Unilateral England set the TV agenda

Ian Mailes

ENGLAND'S home-union rivals may be forced to sign their own separate deals with BSkyB after Twickenham's announcement yesterday that they would go it alone with a five-year deal with the satellite company worth £87.5 million, an agreement that puts the future of the Five Nations Championship in jeopardy.



It is with great regret that one finds England acting in this way — Vernon Pugh, Welsh RU and IB chairman

The deal runs from the beginning of the 1997-8 season and is for exclusive television rights to all international, representative and club games in England. The deal allows terrestrial television, almost certainly the BBC, whose three-year, £27 million agreement runs out at the end of next season, to broadcast Five Nations matches not less than two hours after the end of the live game.

He asked to make alternative arrangements for season 1997-98... it will have inevitable consequences for the format of the Five Nations Championship.

The incoming Irish RFU president Bobby Deacy described the development as "immense and tragic" and potentially "the point of no return" for the tournament.

McLeod, who is also the SRU vice-president, added: "I would like to make it clear to the RFU that this decision will jeopardise matches at all age-group levels, not just full international matches. They will also now have difficulties finding match officials."

David Elstein, BSkyB's head of programming, said: "We have made an offer to the other unions and they can sell the rights of their home matches. The offers we have made are proportionate. The other unions have a tremendous asset to sell; they should now pick up the baton."

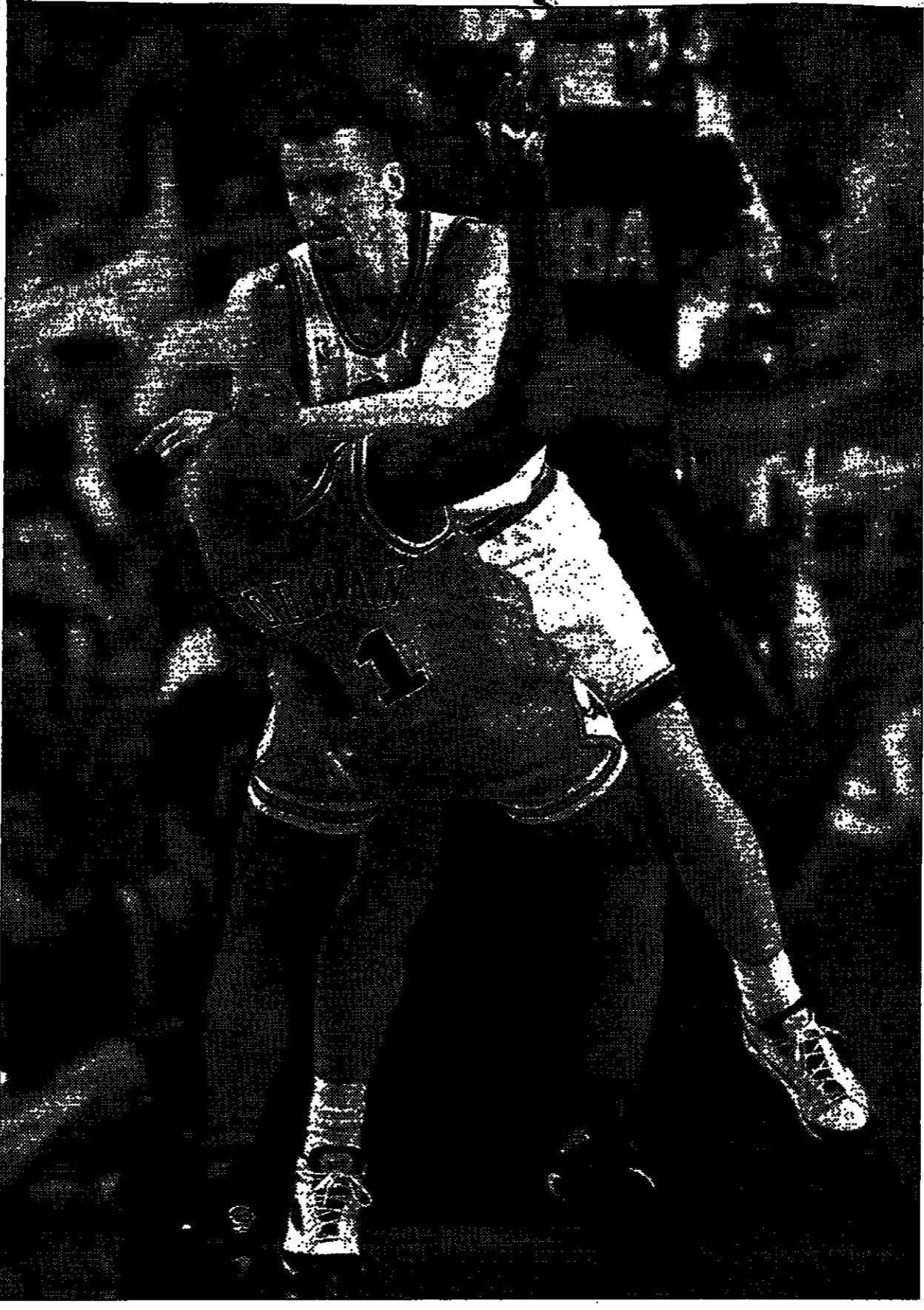
Elstein said that pay-for-view was not part of the new deal and that system was not discussed in the negotiations.

The RFU argues that it had to act in a unilateral way to help fund the professional game and it also has to pay off an outstanding loan of £34 million for the rebuilding of Twickenham.

David Robinson, the RFU's treasurer, said: "Last week our TV working party was unanimous that we had to go forward with BSkyB. We have to look after the financial affairs of our union and its members."

Tony Hallett, the RFU's secretary, said: "We've gone through the post-revolutionary era of the professional game. We have no wish to leave the Five Nations. We are committed to it and to making sure the benefits from this deal stretch throughout the game from international level to the grass roots."

Hallett denied the deal would lead to the "hitting" of the competition, leading to the Government protecting it as a major sports event such as Wimbledon, the Grand National and the FA Cup final, which are still the preserve of terrestrial channels.



THE Chicago Bulls are one win away from another NBA championship after soundly beating the Seattle SuperSonics again on Sunday night, 108-86.

who finished with 36 points, 27 of them in the first half. The Australian centre Eric Litley (19 points) shone in the supporting cast. And Dennis "The Worm" Rodman made a characteristic contribu-

tion, corralling 10 rebounds and Bull-baiting a couple of the Sonics. In the last quarter he provoked Frank Brickowski into laying a forearm across his windpipe (above), for which the Son-

ics power forward was ejected from the game. It was the first time the Sonics had lost three successive games all season. No team has ever recovered from a 3-0 deficit to win the championship.

Rugby League

Larder turns to teenager

Paul Fitzpatrick

PAUL SCULTHORPE, the 18-year-old Warrington winger, looks poised to make his England debut in the European Championship game with France at Gateshead tomorrow.

England's coach Phil Larder intended to name his side yesterday but was forced to delay it until this morning because of a lengthy injury list. He might need to do some shuffling of the pack and that could propel Sculthorpe into the front line, when ideally Larder would probably have preferred to ease him in from the bench. But the richly talented Sculthorpe shows a maturity beyond his years and would not be overawed.

Among the injured are the captain Andy Farrell, who was due to become England's youngest captain. If he fails to play, his club Wigan colleague Shaun Edwards would take over.

Edwards, who missed most of England's World Cup campaign last year because of injury, was not selected in the original squad but was drafted in when St Helens' Bobbie Goulding withdrew because of a cracked collarbone.

The other Wigan players to pick up injuries in the 18-18 draw with London Exiles on Sunday were Jason Robinson, Gary Connolly and Mick Cassidy, whose damaged rib makes him the least likely to play. Halifax's Karl Harrison and Keighley's Daryl Powell complete the doubtfuls.

Because of the injuries, Larder was unable to run through some of his drills yesterday but was philosophical. "It is virtually impossible for players to train on a Monday after a Sunday game anyway," he said. "That's the nature of the game."

"There are difficulties in trying to prepare a team for a midweek fixture and Super League is so intense at the moment. But I'm sure the French team [also due to be named today] are in a similar situation and the Welsh have got problems as well."

Wales, the European champions, won last week's opening match against France in Carcassonne and meet England for what could prove the decider in Cardiff this month.

Racing

Derby betting takes a dive

Graham Rick

THE debate to decide which day the Derby should be run will continue until a decision is made next week, but all major bookmakers are now advocating a return to Wednesday and professional betting figures from the world's most famous flat race last Saturday declined by 10 per cent from the previous June.

Brian Meshaun's Warning Time, the joint top-weight, has an alternative engagement at Sandown on Saturday and an entry for the Jersey Stakes. If both colts defeated, Dashing Blue would head the handicap and the weights would rise by 1lb.

William Hill has installed Pivotal 6-1 joint favourite with Willie Jarvis's React, who finished third in a Newmarket Listed Fillies' race earlier in the month.

Inevitably, Saturday's sprint will be highly competitive but, sitting through the field, one of the most interesting runners is Major Quality.

James Fanshawe's colt has run only three times, all over five furlongs, but judging by the way he was staying on at a good second to Fond Embrace at Haydock last month he should be suited by the extra distance and is attractively priced at 14-1.

The going will be fast at Saturday's meetings, but both of today's meetings should be no impediment to a major sporting championship should be able to recover the lost ground in a year or two, given robust marketing.

This Saturday the biggest betting race will be the William Hill Trophy at York. Pivotal featured on many lists of horses to follow for the Flat season and Sir Mark Prescott's promising sprinter is set to carry joint top-weight with Warning Time, but the Newmarket trainer is more likely to wait for Royal Ascot.

Having won races at Newcastle and Folkestone in good style last autumn to earn an official rating of 104, Pivotal has the scope to progress further.

"I have declared him at York more as a precaution," Prescott said. "If the ground at York is good or easier and the going at Ascot looked likely to be very firm, then I might run him on Saturday. Otherwise he would wait for the Cork and Orrery Stakes on Thursday."

Salisbury with form for the Jackpot races

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 2.00 Green Jewel, 3.30 Stately Dancer, 3.00 Willow Dale, 3.30 Green Jewel, 4.00 Seabreeze, 4.30 Offshore Hours, 4.00 Charlotte Courty.

Drawn No advantage. \* Despatch Meters. Ongoing Good (Good to firm in places). Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest contest.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 2.00 Green Jewel, 3.30 Stately Dancer, 3.00 Willow Dale, 3.30 Green Jewel, 4.00 Seabreeze, 4.30 Offshore Hours, 4.00 Charlotte Courty.

FORM GUIDE - GREEN JEWEL: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 2.30 CITY SUEVA HANDICAP, 2.30 CITY SUEVA HANDICAP, 2.30 CITY SUEVA HANDICAP.

FORM GUIDE - STATEDY DANCER: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 3.00 COURAGEOUS BERT HANDICAP, 3.00 COURAGEOUS BERT HANDICAP, 3.00 COURAGEOUS BERT HANDICAP.

FORM GUIDE - BESTER JOLONG: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 3.30 BISHOPSTON COURTESY STAKES, 3.30 BISHOPSTON COURTESY STAKES, 3.30 BISHOPSTON COURTESY STAKES.

FORM GUIDE - CHARLIE: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

4.00 LAVERSTOCK MAIDEN HURDLE STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 4.00 LAVERSTOCK MAIDEN HURDLE STAKES, 4.00 LAVERSTOCK MAIDEN HURDLE STAKES.

FORM GUIDE - ARTFUL DANCE: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 4.30 DORSET HANDICAP, 4.30 DORSET HANDICAP, 4.30 DORSET HANDICAP.

FORM GUIDE - ARTFUL DANCE: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 5.00 LAVERSTOCK MAIDEN HURDLE STAKES, 5.00 LAVERSTOCK MAIDEN HURDLE STAKES.

FORM GUIDE - ARTFUL DANCE: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 5.30 LAVERSTOCK MAIDEN HURDLE STAKES, 5.30 LAVERSTOCK MAIDEN HURDLE STAKES.

FORM GUIDE - ARTFUL DANCE: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Redcar

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 2.15 BLONDE ROCK, 2.45 MISTY WOODSTOCK, 3.15 GOOD HAND, 3.45 INVIGILANTE, 4.15 BATHSTONE, 4.45 CONTRACT BRIDGE.

Drawn No advantage. \* Despatch Meters. Ongoing Good (Good to firm, fine in places).

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 2.15 BLONDE ROCK, 2.45 MISTY WOODSTOCK, 3.15 GOOD HAND, 3.45 INVIGILANTE, 4.15 BATHSTONE, 4.45 CONTRACT BRIDGE.

FORM GUIDE - BLONDE ROCK: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 3.15 SANDERLAND CLAIMED STAKES, 3.15 SANDERLAND CLAIMED STAKES.

FORM GUIDE - SANDERLAND CLAIMED STAKES: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 3.45 STANLEY JACKSON BOTH RACING ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP, 3.45 STANLEY JACKSON BOTH RACING ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP.

FORM GUIDE - SANDERLAND CLAIMED STAKES: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and time. Includes 4.15 WOODSLEIGH HANDICAP, 4.15 WOODSLEIGH HANDICAP.

FORM GUIDE - SANDERLAND CLAIMED STAKES: ridden and headed by 2nd, stayed on final furlong, 4th of 14, 1st behind Warning Time (17) on 20th.

RACELINE 0930 1684 SALISBURY 101 201 REDCAR 102 202

EURO 96

Group B: Romania 0, France 1

France select cruise control

Mike Walker at St James' Park

THE unbeaten run of games that has seen France emerge as one of the most powerful forces in Europe was extended to 24 last night.

A 22nd-minute goal from Christophe Dugarry, his 12th for his country, was enough to take France past the team they feared most in this group: the Romanians.

They featured no English-based players although that is hardly an indication of any poverty of talent. Instead they began with six men who will perform in Serie A, that is if Zidane's transfer to Juventus definitely goes through.

Such cosmopolitanism failed to faze the Romanians, who had only two players from their domestic league. In the first five minutes alone they had three shots, from Hagi, Munteanu and Lacatus, the latter being one of the two Steaua Bucharest players on the pitch.



Playmaker's pilerider... France's pivotal midfielder Zidane gets off a shot past the Romanian sweeper Belodedici

Lacatus is a familiar name. Familiarity with a name, however, does not mean his movements can be predicted and he was scything down three times in the opening quarter of an hour.

Encouraged, the French took the lead. This time Djorkaeff was the provider, slinging in a hopeful cross that Dugarry, under pressure from two defenders, did well to get to.

However, his far from brilliant header would not have caused Stelea any problems had he stayed on his line. Unfortunately for him, he had chosen to come for the cross

and the ball bounced slowly into an empty net. France settled at once and with Deschamps orchestrating affairs from the centre, they began to develop cohesive teamwork to add to their impressive individual skills.

Hagi countered with shots either side of Lama's posts although Deschamps almost extended France's lead shortly before the break with a volley

that screamed inches wide. Probably concerned at how the Romanian influence had waned, their manager Anghel Iordanescu took off the ineffective Raducioiu at half-time for Moldovan and then, somewhat surprisingly, replaced Lacatus with Iles. It did little to interrupt the French momentum though, and had Karembu made any sort of connection with Guerin's cross

they would have been two ahead. Following that, only excellent defending by Popescu and Lupescu prevented openings created by Djorkaeff and Zidane being converted into goals.

Try as he might, Hagi just could not lift those around him and when he did manage to put Moldovan in via a typical dagger pass, Blanc got a decisive foot in. Even a fierce

Hagi free-kick was comfortably defended by Lama. Perhaps sensing they needed a second goal to kill the game off, the French with-drew Dugarry and brought on their league's leading scorer Loko. It almost worked immediately as Loko ran at Mihail, left him on the floor, but then rather than pass to Djorkaeff he chose to shoot. It was the wrong choice.

Supporters blame FA over empty seats

SUPPORTERS yesterday attacked the Football Association for their handling of ticket sales for Euro 96, which they say has led to the embarrassing empty spaces seen at Eiland Road and Old Trafford for the first-round games there.

Armchair fans swell ratings

NEARLY 10 million people watched ITV's coverage of England's first game in the Euro 96 campaign against Switzerland, writes Andrew Cuff.

The network achieved a peak audience of 9.9 million (a 77 per cent share of all TV viewers) for the Wembley game. The average audience was 6.5 million, according to unofficial industry figures.

Channel 4's coverage of the Derby at Epsom took a hammering, with audience peaking at just 2.1 million.

Germany salutes its own

TRUST the Germans to get the best story. Their 2-0 victory over the Czech Republic gained universal approval in the fatherland, particularly when set against England's lacklustre opener.

While Bild indulged in typical tab-thumping — "Berlin that was great fun. Two great goals and Germany are now tournament favourites" — the lefty Frankfurter Allgemeine also got stuck into England. "A host has never left his own party so quickly. It was like a flight. The players with the three lions on their chest ran for the exit."

Scots take Dutch courage at Villa Park

Continued from back page blocking Bergkamp's shot with his legs after McCall had thwarted De Kock. Scotland had managed to restore some parity even though Holland always looked the more likely to score.

Sacchi treads a tightrope

IN A country boasting 66 million managers of its national team, it takes a brave or foolish man to pluck from his pack three aces and cast them to the winds without a hint of regret.

Collins causes handball row

ANYBODY who doubted the wisdom of AS Monaco's decision to invest \$3 million in John Collins last month should have seen his performance at Villa Park yesterday.

Teamtalk For the latest Transfer News Call 0891 33 77+ Arsenal 06 Ipswich Town 19 Sheffield United 15 Aston Villa 11 Leeds United 03 Sheffield Wed. 14

EURO 96 DIARY Germany salutes its own The country's national sports daily, Sport, had much more fun writing about the English bobbies (bobbies). The bobbie crowd liked the fact that both the Czech and German fans were taking pictures of them — they even lent their strange helmets to fans posing for photos.

EURO 96 DIARY Germany salutes its own Continued from back page blocking Bergkamp's shot with his legs after McCall had thwarted De Kock. Scotland had managed to restore some parity even though Holland always looked the more likely to score.

Cricket Benson & Hedges Cup Semi Finals 0891 22 88+ Live Commentary Lancs 38 v Yorkshire 48 Northants 41 v Warwick 48

Cricket Benson & Hedges Cup Semi Finals 0891 22 88+ Live Commentary Lancs 38 v Yorkshire 48 Northants 41 v Warwick 48

Key talk Unlucky fight Uefa on referees stay...

Handwritten signature: J.P. 11/10/96



# Sports Guardian

## EURO 96

Group A: Holland 0, Scotland 0

# Scots take Dutch courage

Goram and referee deny Holland an opening win

David Lacey at Villa Park

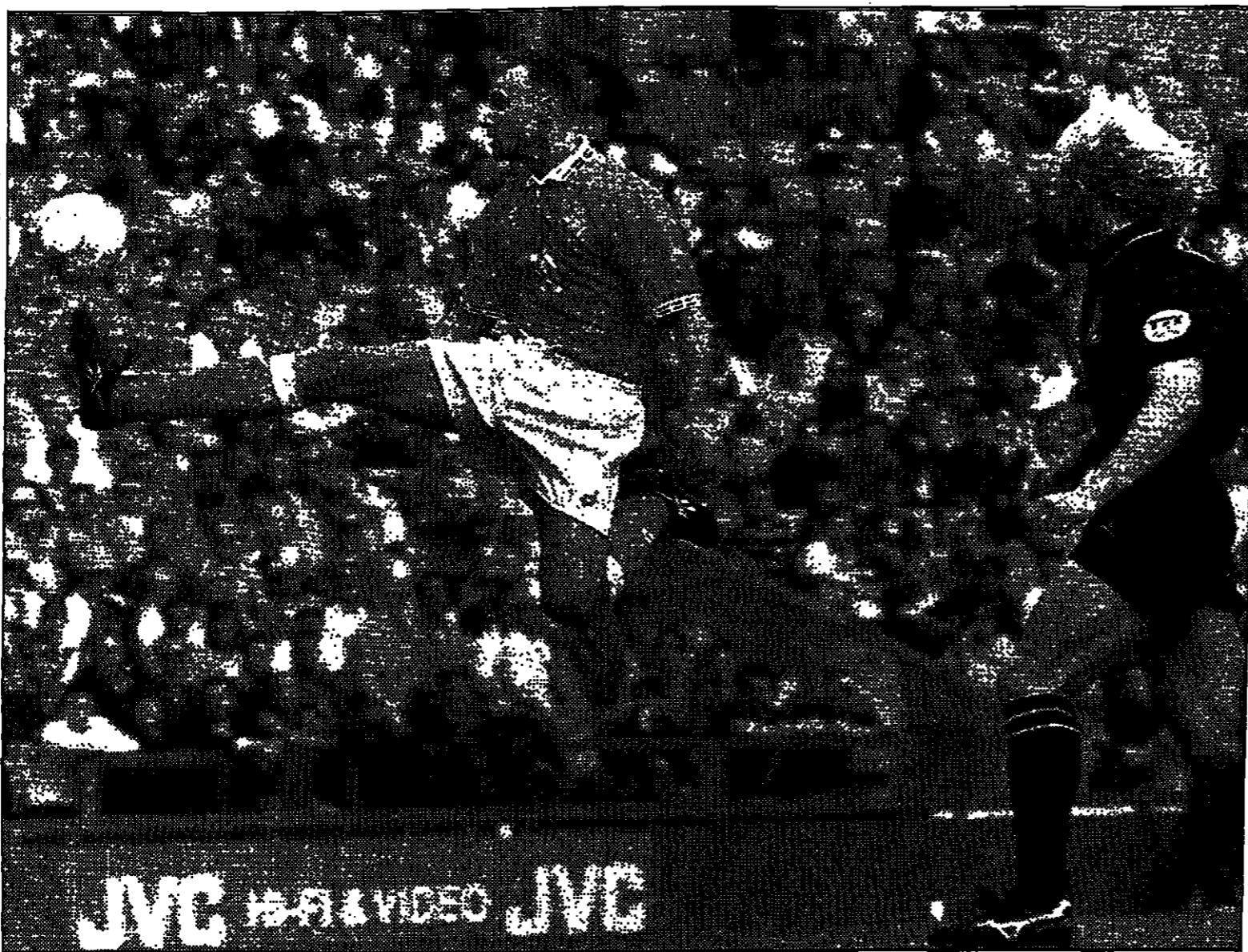
SCOTLAND, inspired initially by Goram, kept their nerve at Villa Park yesterday to face down an oddity disparate Dutch side, leaving England to ponder still further the significance of reviving the oldest international fixture at Wembley on Saturday.

In forcing a goalless draw with Holland, the Scots have earned themselves a stake in the contest. They have met supposedly one of the best sides the European Championship has to offer and survived. That must be good for morale, and a point is obviously good for business.

All four teams in Group A now have one apiece, with England and Switzerland holding a slight advantage with their scoring draw. Yesterday Scotland looked capable of holding or even beating the Swiss, though for the rest of the week their thoughts will be fully occupied with the England match.

A similar approach if not a similar formation on Saturday would demand from Terry Venables's team reserves of strength and stamina conspicuously absent against Switzerland. Yesterday Scotland were strongest precisely in those areas where, two days earlier, England had faded.

Collins gave a masterful display in midfield. Of all the Scots he had the ability to create time and space to use the ball intelligently, which he did for 90 minutes. McAllister, whose natural role this would normally be, was more



Arsenal out of ammunition... Dennis Bergkamp stretches for the ball under the watchful eye of Scotland's Colin Hendry. PHOTOGRAPH: SANTIAGO LYON

of a supporting figure, while McCall's industry ensured that, for all his skill, Davids did not become the

game's dominating force. If anyone dominated for the Dutch it was Ronald de Boer, who despite fitness worries

had a marvellous match before giving way to Winter for the last 22 minutes. Yet the familiar fluency was seen

only in spells, primarily at the start and finish of the match when only Scottish bodies were denying Holland a goal.

Kluivert, who has played only 75 minutes in eight weeks, started the game on the bench and eventually replaced the fitful Taument just past the hour. This enabled Bergkamp, who is never happy when thrust up front on his own, to drift deep and wide but Kluivert still looked below par.

Holland were also without the suspended Blind, who will return against Switzerland on Thursday, and they missed his capacity for breaking forward to make sudden appearances on the edge of the penalty area. At times their football flowed in the old manner but Scotland's defence stood firm around Hendry and Calder-

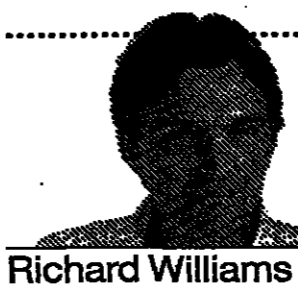
wood until legs tired in the closing minutes.

For 10 minutes or so at the start form and superior technique ruled. Scotland simply could not get the ball. The Dutch drums in the stands beat out a triumphant tattoo, their trumpets were as bold as brass. By half-time, however, the band had been reduced to a series of brief encores punctuated by long periods of silence.

Scotland's resistance began, almost inevitably, with Goram, who on six minutes kept out a close-range shot from Seedorf. Then Collins cleared a shot from Witschge off the line, amid Dutch claims for hand-ball that were supported by TV but not the Swedish referee.

But by the time Goram made his next urgent save, Turn to page 14

# Lionhearts lost in the shadows



Richard Williams

SO WHAT do you think happened after Saturday's match, when the jubilant Swiss fans finally abandoned Wembley's West Stand to the cleaners and Stuart Pearce had explained for the last time that there was absolutely no karmic connection between the penalty he had missed for England in Turin six years ago and the one he had given away that afternoon?

Here's what happened. Switzerland, whose supporters had treated their 1-1 draw with the hosts as tantamount to a glorious victory, were told to report for training on Sunday morning. And England, to whom the draw represented a devastating blow, were given two days off to spend with their families. This one you truly couldn't make up.

Ever since England's failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup, and particularly since our clubs were annihilated in Europe last winter, a lot of thought has been expended on the many possible causes of the nation's failure to keep pace with the rest of the continent.

We play too many matches. We only train in the mornings. We don't control the players' diets. We let them drink beer on Friday nights. All true, yet somehow not enough to explain such a vast and general falling-away.

And definitely not the reason behind Saturday's astonishing display. Here, in a single piece of anecdotal evidence, was as clear an illustration as we may ever get of England's problem.

For all the jibes about in-flight refuelling, the problem is not irresponsibility. The players may behave stupidly sometimes, but it would be wrong to accuse them of lacking a seriousness of intent. Paul Gascoigne and his teammates want success in this tournament as badly as any German or Italian. But their manner of going about the task shows a lack of self-knowledge which is genuinely pathetic.

On Saturday the way the players ran out of puff led the coach to say that he could have taken off any one of eight players "because we all looked very, very tired", an

astonishing admission in the light of the facilities offered to him during the two-year period of preparation.

Why were they tired? It's true that our players don't train very rigorously or scientifically, and many of them certainly drink more alcohol than the average Serie A performer, but in normal circumstances they can be relied upon to last the full 90 minutes of a moderately paced game such as this one. The problem goes beyond simple explanations, which is why a 48-hour break will have made no difference.

It seemed to me that the England players were tired not in their limbs but in their minds, and that this mental exhaustion has its roots in a deep-rooted uncertainty about who, exactly, they are supposed to be.

Paul Ince may have blundered close to the truth on the morning after the game, when he told a TV interviewer that "too much nervous energy" was to blame.

"There's no such thing as nervous energy," Jack Charlton retorted from his seat in the stands. But there is, and more than one kind at that. England's variety was fuelled not by adrenalin but by a debilitating uncertainty.

WE have seen it time and again. An England team take the field with a built-in identity crisis. On the one hand they know that we invented the game, we won the World Cup 30 years ago, and we've got the best league in the world. On the other, a great deal of empirical evidence suggests that we are no longer good enough to justify such comfortable beliefs.

The best example came at the start of Graham Taylor's last match, when the team kicked off against San Marino in a mood of unreal serenity, clearly believing that the three lions on their chests lent them an inherent superiority which would see them through. Ten seconds later they were a goal down. That was not complacency; it was a delusion of grandeur. And it is still there.

Venables was right not to make the players spend the last 48 hours practising corner kicks. They should how to do that. Instead he should have kept them together and drawn them into a discussion about what it means to play for England in 1996. If that is, he has a clear idea of it himself.

Between the idea and the reality / Between the motion and the act / Falls the Shadow. England are now so deep in that shadow that they cannot even recognise themselves.

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**QUIZ:**

With Parents	Rent	Rent	Own	Own	
1	2	3	4	5	

**Years at Present Address**

1-4 Year	5-9 Year	10-14 Year	15 Year or more	
1	2	3	4	5

**Gross Monthly Income**

£10,000	£11,000	£12,000	£13,000	£14,000	£15,000
3	4	5	6	7	

**Years with Present Employer**

1 Year	2-3 Year	4-5 Year	6-9 Year	10 Year or more	
1	2	3	4	5	6

**% Monthly Income Remaining After Outgoings**

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**History repeats itself, the first time as genocide, the second as synchronised swimming. It was surprising to hear that the French women's synchronised swimming team were performing a routine based on the arrival of women at the Nazi death camps and their selection by Nazi doctors for the gas chambers.**

Sebastian Faulks

G2 page 3

**Guardian Crossword No 20,676**  
Set by Oriando

**Across**

- Fly-fish on returning to river (6)
- Second mate at the wheel? (2-6)
- Exercise preliminary to heat? (4-2)
- Sign name to authorise imports (8)
- Double gin returned to the bar (11)
- Carpets woven in various colour ranges (7)
- Using this grip, soundly sink every putt (7)
- One primate's a variety of ape (11)
- Draught prescribed by family doctor (8)
- Said to raise a smile (6)
- Sub finds place in new-look English side (8)
- Foreign girl's work permit returned separately (6)

**Down**

- Stripper and officer engaging in sin (8)
- Switch off heater light by the generator (10)
- Parental training given during pregnancy (8)
- Courty players in blue (8)
- Drinker, when a driver, took nothing (8)
- Opening race has no starter (4)
- Plant producing fine sprays (4)
- Judge again to receive due commendation (10)
- Cheeky monkey to be rejected for male part (8)
- A Tory dangle? Certainly a bloomer! (8)
- From River's banks, fish with spears (8)
- Rest in peace, dear. (She shot herself) (6)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,676**

The solution to 5 down in crossword No. 20,673 was "TARTISH", not "TARTISH" as printed on Saturday.

20 Fish acceptable to Daniel's companion, bearing char perhaps (4)  
21 Have a swig, if you can turn the stopper (4)

**Solution tomorrow**

22 Snuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 238. Calls cost 33p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT2.

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Wednesday June 12

How many child abuse...  
**Unending nightmare**  
G2 with European w...  
**Cuckoo**

Rival party funds rebels

T

President's plat du jour

Inside

Britain

2

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.